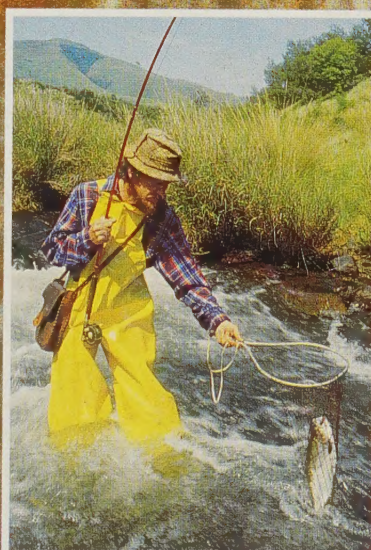
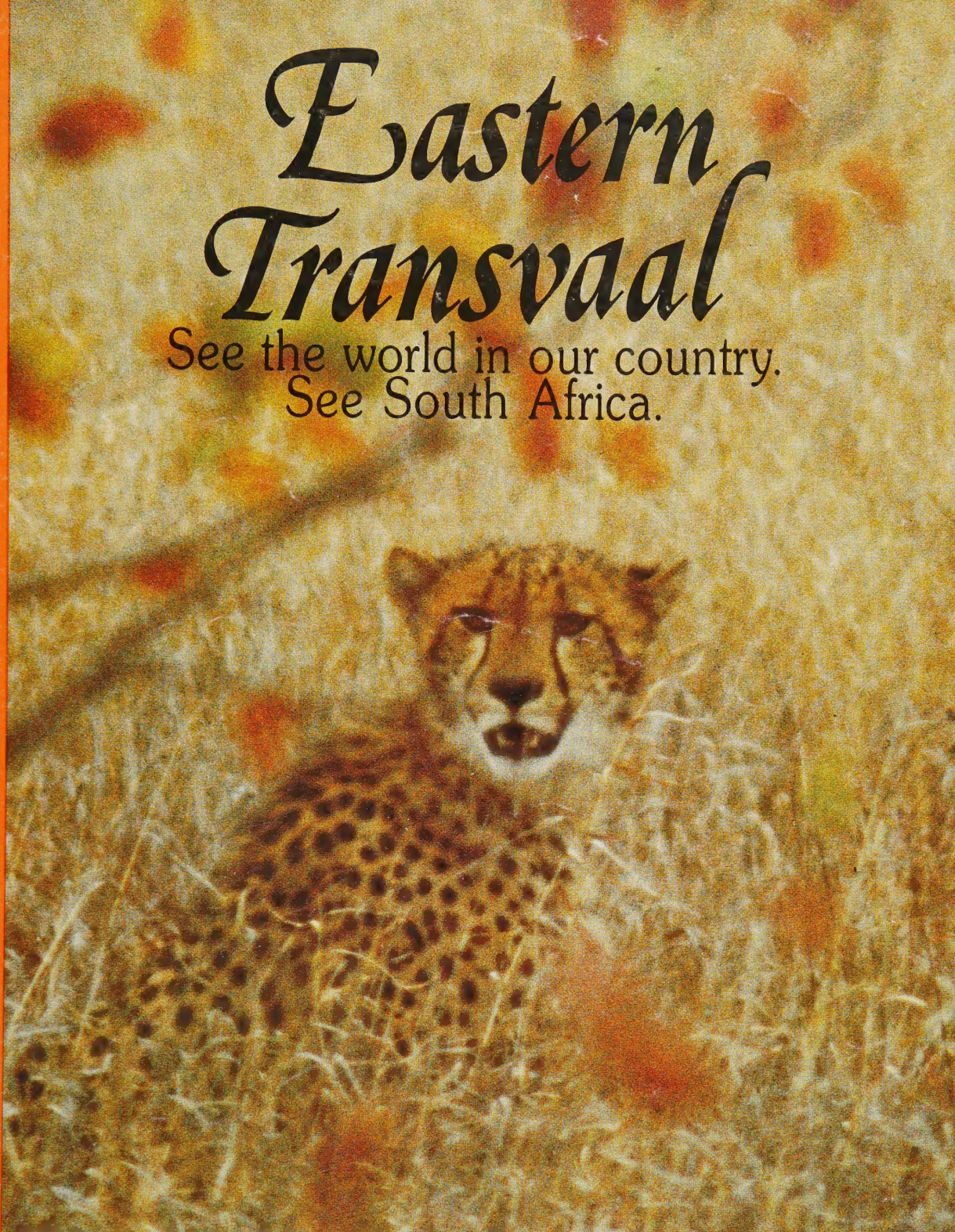


SOUTH AFRICA

# Eastern Transvaal

See the world in our country.  
See South Africa.



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- While care has been taken to ensure accuracy of contents at the time of going to press, the publisher and compilers cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions.

This brochure is not a comprehensive study of the Eastern Transvaal, but rather a travel guide for those in search of insights into an area which offers a rich and varied spectrum.

Information on accommodation appears in the South African Tourism Board's guides: *Where to Stay* and *Guide to Caravan Parks and Holiday Resorts*.

A list of addresses and telephone numbers of South African Tourism Board offices appears on the back page.

In the interest of safety, motorists are urged to slow down when travelling along gravel roads. Tyre pressure should also be reduced.





*"Nowhere is that mysterious presence of Wild Africa felt more deeply than in the Transvaal Lowveld... This is where a subtle Spirit, much older than the human spirit, grips you and subdues you and makes you one with Itself."*

Field Marshal, the Rt. Hon. J C Smuts (1929)

G M Elliott Library  
Cincinnati Christian University  
2700 Glenway  
P O Box 04320  
Cincinnati, OH 45204-3200





# Profile of The Area

From the Witwatersrand and Pretoria the high plateau of the Transvaal stretches eastwards for hundreds of kilometres as an essentially treeless grassland except for occasional wooded hollows and sheltered hill slopes, or where man has introduced clumps and plantations of exotics.

Ridges of hills and undulating plains form the landscape, the sky an immense and dominating presence, clear pale blue in winter, darker in summer and invaded by armadas of towering cloud formations.

Peaceful, spacious and invigoratingly airy - this was the reality of the Eastern Transvaal for countless millennia. In large measure it still is. But with the discovery some decades ago that beneath the placid grassy surface of the western sector lay one of the richest deposits of coal in the world, the character of certain parts of the Transvaal altered dramatically.

Coal mines, some underground, others open-cast, began to emerge giving significance to former little towns and villages such as Witbank.

Disquieting to some people, the appearance of these industrial complexes - the angled projections of mine headgear, the architecture of power stations - has for many a strong aesthetic appeal, inspiring feelings of awe and admiration.

However, between and beyond such manifestations, an extensive part of

the Eastern Transvaal plateau significantly yields several outstanding attractions for those who seek tranquillity. Rivers, dams for boating and freshwater fishing, agreeable camping and picnic spots, nature reserves (some at no great distance from either Pretoria or the Witwatersrand) and, further east in the brisk cool uplands, well-stocked trout streams, all provide diversion and relaxation. Wild flowers among the grasses in spring and summer, aloes on rocky hillsides in winter and swathes of pastel-tinted cosmos in autumn add their scent and colour to the landscape.

The plateau sweeps on until, in the north-east, it rises towards mountain peaks and then terminates in an immense escarpment which plunges, in places with breath-taking abruptness, hundreds of metres down to low-lying, warm and partly natural wooded country. The mountains and escarpment are manifestations of the northern part of the mighty Drakensberg range; the low-lying country is known as the Lowveld.

This particular transition from the plateau's heights to the sub-tropical lowlands is an incomparably beautiful example of nature's artistry. Rivers have sculpted great chasms and gorges from the rocks; lichens have painted the soaring cliffs in glowing reds and oranges; dark green forests

adorn some of the slopes; stone pinnacles stand aloof like giant statues against a frescoed background.

It is also a region of legend and history: of tales of courageous pioneers, transport riders, fortune-hunters, of gold and ivory, slave traders and warring tribes.

The Lowveld, an area of woodland and savannah rarely higher than 900 metres above sea-level, extends eastward to the Lebombo Mountains. Beyond this low mountain range lie the coastal plains of Mozambique, often identified as part of the Lowveld. Distinct, however, their altitude seldom exceeds the 350 metre mark.

Of all the tracts of country that make up South Africa, the Lowveld is perhaps the most evocative of the old Africa of adventure and romance. For here the great concentrations of antelope, lion, elephant, giraffe, hippo and rhinoceros were mustered . . . and here the hunters of bygone days stalked the big game and were themselves in peril from predators, hunger, thirst and the ravages of tsetse fly and malaria-carrying mosquitos.

Today a substantial part of the Lowveld is the home of the Kruger National Park and other smaller game sanctuaries, where the deadly insects have been largely eliminated and the animals, safe from excessive hunting, have flourished and multiplied.



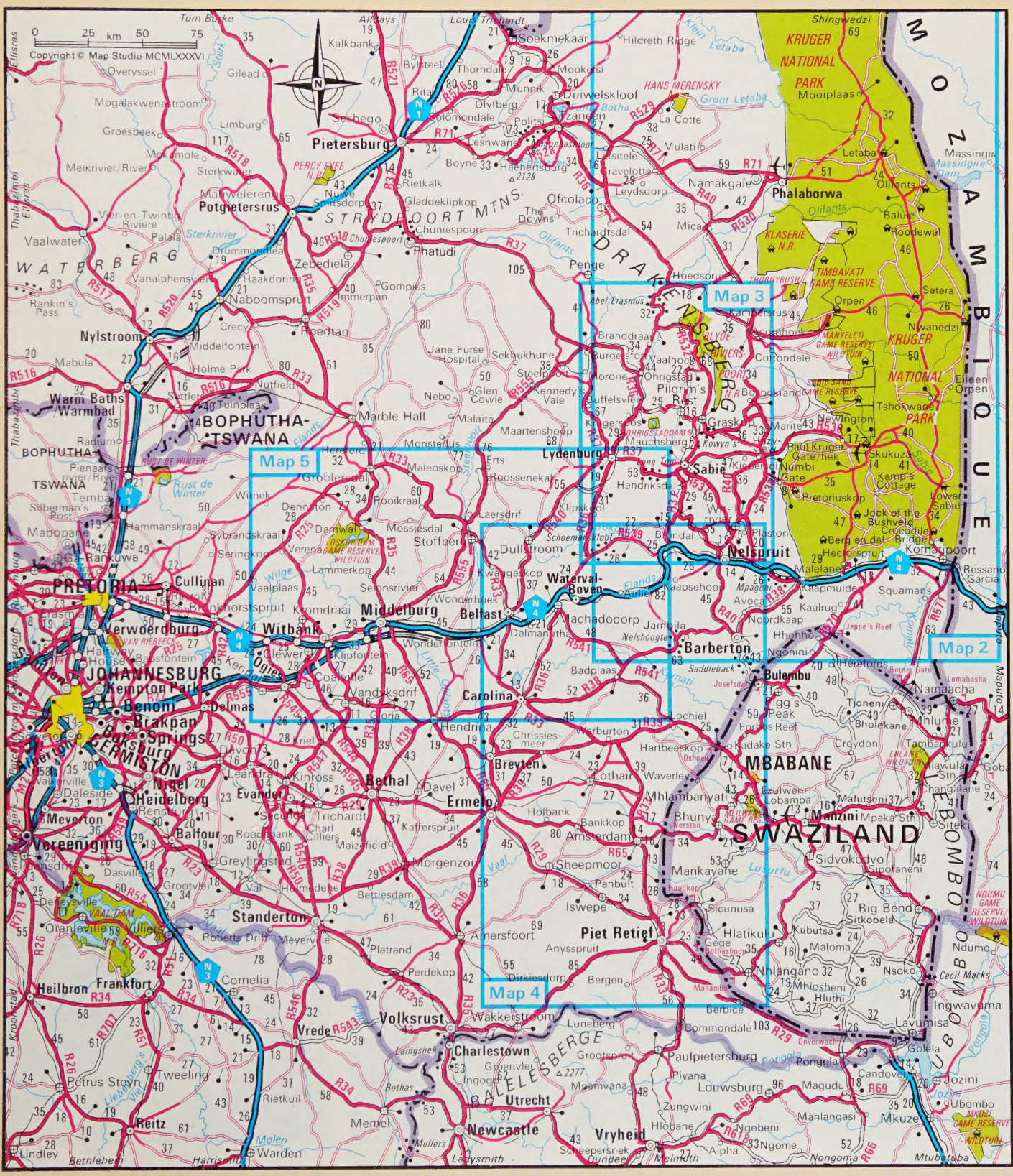


REFERENCE TO MAPS

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National routes  
Principal trunk roads  
Main roads  
Secondary roads  
Railways  
National boundaries  
Provincial boundaries  
Distances in kilometres

- Mountain passes  
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# The Lowveld in the Vicinity and North of Nelspruit

## NELSPRUIT

This thriving town in the Crocodile River Valley is the commercial and administrative core of the Lowveld. Citrus in abundance as well as a host of other subtropical fruits - mangoes, litchis, bananas, pawpaws, avocados - together with nuts - pecan and macadamia - vegetables, tobacco and timber, are all cultivated in the fertile well-watered valley, where summers are hot and humid and winters benignly frost-free. It is the second largest citrus producing area in South Africa and source of one third of the country's export oranges. The town is the marshalling point for agricultural crops and timber and for many types of processed fruits and vegetables.

Nelspruit is today a lively and colourful town: citrus groves nudge the suburbs, and the streets and gardens are bright with flowering trees and shrubs. It is also an excellent centre from which to explore the region. Good roads radiate to the four points of the compass leading to game sanctuaries, mountains, historic towns and sites.

## THINGS TO DO AND SEE

### LOWVELD BOTANIC GARDENS

On the northern edge of town, this Garden is a branch of the National Botanic Garden at Kirstenbosch (headquarters in the Cape Peninsula) and thus devoted to the cultivation and study of indigenous flora of the region. Open to the public at all times, well laid out and shady. Inquiries regarding the flora may be directed to the office at the entrance (open Mon-Fri 07h30-18h00 in summer and 08h00-17h15 in winter). *The Falls or Cascades*: a short walk through the garden leads to a fenced in area overlooking the Crocodile River which at this point cascades over the rocks and pours down into a narrow gorge. *The River Walk*: a nature trail which extends for about two km along the banks of the Crocodile River. The first part of the walk is easily negotiated, the latter half more difficult and strenuous. Prominent among many species typical of the Lowveld are fine specimens of trees such as kias, combretum, marula and wild fig.

### NELSPRUIT ART GALLERY

Housed in the Nelspruit Library, Louis Trichardt Street. Contains exhibits of several international artists. Open Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 08h30; Tues 09h30; Sat 09h00. Closed Mon, Tues, Thurs 18h00; Wed and Fri 17h00; Sat 12h00.

### STEILTES

An elegant suburb built on the hills south of the town: from its eminences there are splendid views of Nelspruit, the Crocodile River Valley and the mountains to the north.

### THE CITRUS AND SUBTROPICAL FRUIT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The headquarters of this important advice and study centre are about four km from Nelspruit along the White River road. Open to visitors by special appointment only.

### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel accommodation available in the town and immediate environs, besides holiday villas, chalets and caravan parks in the vicinity. The Nelspruit Municipal Holiday Resort on the eastern edge of town offers self-contained fully equipped chalets, caravan sites and a swimming pool.

### SPORT, RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Tennis, squash, badminton and swimming at Van Riebeeck Park. A bowling green and an 18-hole golf course east of the town. Several licenced restaurants and a cinema provide entertainment.

### SHOPPING

In addition to small and medium-sized speciality shops, there are branches of some of the big supermarkets and the major banks and building societies.

### CURIO SHOPS AND WAYSIDE STALLS

A feature of the roads around Nelspruit and *White River* is the



▲ FRUIT FACE



▲ WAYSIDE STALL



▲ IN TOUCH WITH NATURE



▲ EBONY AND IVORY CARVINGS



number of wayside stalls selling farm produce in season, together with larger establishments marketing curios, handwoven rugs, hand carvings, leather goods and the like.

#### AIRPORT, STATION, RENT-A-CAR

**NELSPRUIT AIRPORT:** eight km from town on the Kaapsehoop Road (R799).

**STATION:** Andrew Street. Passenger services to and from the Witwatersrand available.

**Arrival/Departure times:** call (01311) 2 3451.

**RENT-A-CAR:** consult either the telephone directory or your hotel porter. Most of the internationally known concerns are well represented. Cars are parked at the airport.

**LUXURY COACH SERVICE:** a luxury coach service operates daily in both directions between Nelspruit and Johannesburg and between Nelspruit and Durban. Consult your local publicity association for further details.

#### HOW TO GET TO NELSPRUIT

Flights linking Nelspruit with Johannesburg arrive/depart daily. Flights to and from Durban and Pietersburg only on weekdays. Train services link Nelspruit with Johannesburg/Pretoria on a daily basis. From there all other major centres in South Africa may be reached.

By road from Pretoria or the Witwatersrand: a three to four hour drive along trunk roads via Middelburg, Belfast, Machadodorp or alternatively through Schoemanskloof (R36) or the Elands River Valley (N4) via Waterval-Boven.

#### CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

Nelspruit and the many agreeable resorts within its vicinity provide an all-year-round season for visitors. Winters are mild and yield the sight of fine species of *Aloes*. Summer is a season which also has its many beauties: the rivers are full, the vegetation exuberant with flame trees and bougainvillea. Apart from such

exotics, indigenous shrubs - notably the glowing 'Pride of de Kaap', *Bauhinia galpinii* - and flowering trees such as the *Acacia karoo* with its scented yellow blossoms (January/February) grace the countryside and overhang the roads.

#### HIKING TRAILS

A 5 km hiking trail starts at the Trimpark in Piet Retief Street and ends at the Botanic Gardens. Various hiking trails may be undertaken in the Kaapsehoop Nature Reserve, 40 km from Nelspruit on the N4. Overnight huts available.

**Information and Reservations:** The Regional Director, Private Bag X11201, Nelspruit 1200 or call (01311) 5 2169.

#### ANNUAL EVENTS

##### 'Jock of the Bushveld' Golf Tournament

May

##### Lowveld Agricultural Show

August

##### Lowveld Lion Festival

Biennial

#### TOURIST INFORMATION

*Lowveld Panorama Tourism Association*

Nelspruit Municipality

Cnr Louis Trichardt and Nel Streets

PO Box 45

Nelspruit 1200

Call (01311) 59 9111

*South African Tourism Board Regional Office*

(contact address see back page)

#### WHITE RIVER

A small attractive town some 20 km

from Nelspruit and at a higher altitude. It is surrounded by farms which are bountiful producers of fruit, vegetables and timber. The area was set aside in 1904 by Lord Milner as a settlement for ex-soldiers from the Anglo-Boer War and it is today one of the most densely populated farming areas in South Africa. With its mild subtropical climate, White River is a convenient stop-over en route to the Kruger National Park, and the good quota of country hotels, guest farms and holiday resorts in its vicinity provide accommodation suitable for brief or longer sojourns. Recreation in the form of fishing in the *Danie Joubert* and *Longmere* dams.

#### ORANGE WINERY

Four kilometres south of the town.

Open weekdays 08h00-13h00 and 14h00-17h00, Sat 08h00-11h30.

Guided tours available.

#### HAZYVIEW

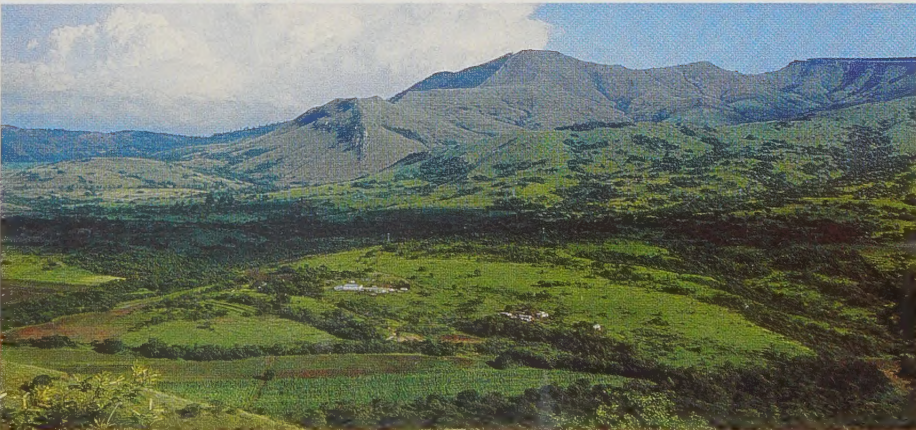
A rural settlement which, like White River, is well served by country hotels and resorts. The motorist from Nelspruit may take either the R538, from which there is a turn-off to the *Kruger National Park's Numbi Gate*, or the more scenic R40 to reach this town. Hazyview serves as a most convenient gateway to many of the private game reserves (see page 11). The Hazyview road also leads via the *Paul Kruger Gate* to Skukuza.



▲ LOWVELD BOTANIC GARDENS, NELSPRUIT



▲ SERENITY NEAR NELSPRUIT



▲ SCENIC SPLENDOUR NEAR NELSPRUIT



# Kruger National Park

A few years ago it was discovered that a coal-vein extended into the northern parts of the Kruger National Park. The possibility of mining this source of fuel was seriously considered. A short while later stickers appeared on a large number of cars bearing these words: 'We dig the park - don't dig it up'. That is the sort of hold this nature sanctuary has on people who know it and visit it at every possible opportunity.

Dominating the Lowveld and without doubt its most compelling attraction, this internationally renowned game and nature reserve contains within its expanse of nearly 2 000 000 ha an unsurpassed variety of living forms: mammal, bird, reptile, insect and vegetable. And there is about it an enchantment, an almost mystical aura of serenity evoking the Africa of yesteryear.

While the park supports the greatest variety of wildlife species to be found on the African continent, the animals most frequently seen are impala, zebra, giraffe and wildebeest and it is rare to motor through the sanctuary without seeing elephant. Prides of lion

roam the area. As they tend to lie resting in the shade during the day it is not always easy to spot them. In fact luck and good eyesight are the two main components for successful game spotting of these predators and others such as leopard and cheetah.

While these and other big game species such as rhino and buffalo attract a great deal of attention there are others that may be equally interesting. Naturalists will be alert to the ceaseless trilling of cicadas, the intermittent drumming of the tapping beetle. Others will be more than content with the quaint antics of a warthog, with the rare sight of a black sable antelope. Moreover birdlife is prolific and varied, and includes ostriches, lilac-breasted rollers, hornbills, Cape glossy starlings and many different species of raptor such as the fish-eagle.

The best season for game viewing is winter when the grass is scant and the animals congregate at waterholes; on the other hand bird lovers will find summer the more rewarding season.

## CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

Although the terrain is often referred to as the bushveld, this does not imply that the vegetation is unwaveringly short and scrubby. On the contrary many areas, especially near river courses, are characterized by trees - some tall, others wide-branched and densely shady and many that flower spectacularly in their season. Nor is the landscape uniformly flat: hills and rocky outcrops provide shelter for numerous plant and animal species specially adapted to such conditions. The area receives mainly summer rain; winters are generally mild and free of frost. Summer temperatures may exceed 40°C.



▲ SELATI TRAIN RESTAURANT



▲ ENTRANCE GATE AT MALELANE



▲ LEOPARD IN WATCHFUL REPOSE



THE MAJESTIC FISH EAGLE ►



## ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES

Accommodation in the form of family bungalows, self-contained huts and huts with communal ablution facilities, all furnished with bedding but without cooking or eating utensils are available in 18 rest camps. While a limited number of the camps serve group needs and must be reserved as a unit, there is variety enough in the type of accommodation available to suit most needs.

The camps have shops stocked with provisions, curios, books and liquor and the larger camps have restaurants. All the rest camps offer cooking and barbeque facilities and most have camping and caravan sites as well as petrol stations. Pretoriuskop, Shingwedzi and Berg-en-Dal rest camps have swimming pools.

## WILDERNESS TRAILS

Within recent years four wilderness trails have been established in the Kruger Park. These are three day walking safaris under the guidance

and protection of experienced game rangers: each provides a matchless opportunity to learn the lore of the bush and the ways of its many inhabitants. Only persons between the ages of 12 and 60 are allowed with a maximum of 8 persons per group. Backpacks are not necessary. Equipment for use in the field, such as tents, are included in the tariff. Meals and refreshments are provided by the trail leaders: *Inquiries and reservations*: see below.

## HOW TO REACH THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

In all eight entrance gates give access to the park, two of which have rest camps attached to them. For the motorist from Nelspruit four gates provide easy access to the park: *Malelane, Crocodile Bridge, Numbi and Paul Kruger Gates*. The latter two are reached via White River. The central area of the park is accessible via the *Orpen and Phalaborwa Gates*, the northernmost parts via those at *Punda Maria and Pafuri*.

**FLY-IN SAFARIS:** there is an airstrip at Skukuza rest camp. A daily air service links the Kruger National Park with Johannesburg and Phalaborwa. *Information:* call Jan Smuts Airport (011) 975 9963 or consult your local travel agent.

**LUXURY COACH SERVICES** from Durban, Johannesburg and Nelspruit offer tours to the Kruger National

Park. Consult your local travel agent for details.

## INQUIRIES AND RESERVATIONS

- (a) Write to:  
The Chief Director  
National Parks Board  
PO Box 787  
Pretoria  
0001
- (b) Call (012) 343 1991
- (c) Call personally at the reservations office, Leyds Street, Muckleneuk, Pretoria
- (d) Write to:  
The Reservations Officer  
National Parks Board  
PO Box 7400  
Roggebaai  
8012
- (e) Call Cape Town (021) 419 5365
- (f) Call George (0441) 74 6924/5

A comprehensive description of the Kruger National Park, its fauna, flora and amenities, will be found in the South African Tourism Board's publication *Our World of Wildlife - South Africa on Safari*. (To obtain a copy contact your nearest Tourism Board office: for addresses see back page.)

**MALARIA PRECAUTIONS:** See p 30.

## ANNUAL EVENTS

**Jock of the Bushveld Golf Tournament, Skukuza**  
April/May



▲ TREE AGAMA



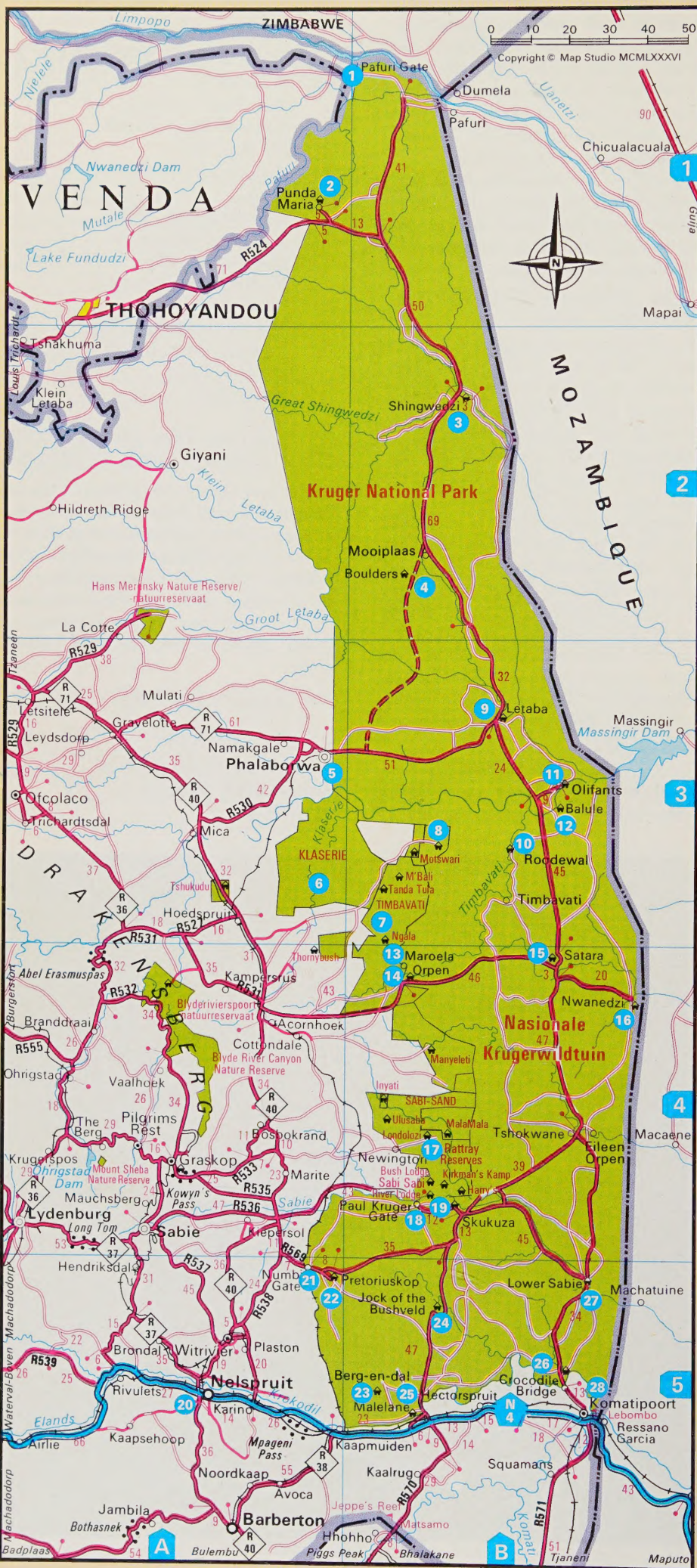
▲ MASORINI ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE



◀ ROYAL RELAXATION

PLAYFUL GIANTS OF THE WILD ▲





MAP 2: THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK AND PRIVATE GAME RESERVES

- |    |    |                      |
|----|----|----------------------|
| 1  | A1 | Pafuri Gate          |
| 2  | A1 | Punda Maria          |
| 3  | B2 | Shingwedzi           |
| 4  | B2 | Boulders             |
| 5  | A3 | Phalaborwa           |
| 6  | A3 | Klaserie Reserve     |
| 7  | B3 | Timbavati Reserve    |
| 8  | B3 | Umbabat Reserve      |
| 9  | B3 | Letaba               |
| 10 | B3 | Roodewal             |
| 11 | B3 | Olifants             |
| 12 | B3 | Balule               |
| 13 | B4 | Maroela              |
| 14 | B4 | Orpen                |
| 15 | B4 | Satara               |
| 16 | B4 | Nwanedzi             |
| 17 | B4 | Sabi-Sand Reserve    |
| 18 | B4 | Paul Kruger Gate     |
| 19 | B4 | Skukuza              |
| 20 | A5 | Nelspruit            |
| 21 | A5 | Numbi Gate           |
| 22 | A5 | Pretorius Kop        |
| 23 | B5 | Berg-en-Dal          |
| 24 | B5 | Jock of the Bushveld |
| 25 | B5 | Malelane             |
| 26 | B5 | Crocodile Bridge     |
| 27 | B5 | Lower Sabie          |
| 28 | B5 | Komatipoort          |

▼ STEENBOK ON THE ALERT



▲ LIFE CAN BE A DRAG!



# Private Game Reserves

On the western border of the Kruger National Park several private game reserves have been established through the consolidation of a number of farms with the specific purpose of creating sanctuaries for the fauna and flora of the Lowveld.

While nature trail expeditions are conducted in the *Klaserie Reserve*, two of the best known areas are *Timbavati* and *Sabi-Sand*. In these latter reserves privately owned game lodges have been opened to accommodate visitors. *Tanda Tuli*, *Motswari*, *M'bali* and *Ngala* are situated in the Timbavati Reserve. There are no less than eight lodges in the Sabi-Sands Reserve - *Mala Mala*, *Kirkman's Kamp*, *Harry's* (within what is collectively known as *Rattray Reserves*), *Bush Lodge* and *River Lodge* within *Sabi Sabi*, besides *Inyati*, *Ulusaba* and *Londoloz*. But there are others, such as *Tshukudu*, *Thornybush* and *Khoka Moya* within *Manyeleti* besides the *Umbabat* Nature Reserve.

All the lodges offer comfortable (in some cases luxurious) accommodation, swimming pools, 'bomas', day and night game viewing

in open 4-wheel drive vehicles and walking safaris under the guidance of rangers. Tariffs vary depending on the type of accommodation and services provided.

For booking details consult your local travel agent or the South African Tourism Board's regional brochure *Where to Stay*.

## HOW TO GET TO THE PRIVATE GAME RESERVES

All are within easy motoring distance of Johannesburg, Pretoria, Nelspruit and Phalaborwa. From Nelspruit transfer services by microbus may also be arranged. Also accessible via Belfast, Lydenburg and Sabie through a scenically captivating area over the Long Tom Pass.

BY AIR: regular scheduled services from Durban, Johannesburg, Nelspruit, Skukuza and Phalaborwa besides either charter or private flights. Some lodges offer fully inclusive air packages from Lanseria Airport in charter aircraft. Landing strips at Phalaborwa, Nelspruit and Skukuza: some game reserves have their own

strips. Consult your local travel agent for details.

LUXURY COACH TOURS: operate from either Pretoria or Johannesburg. Consult your local travel agent for details.

FLY-DRIVE SAFARIS: from Jan Smuts International Airport near Johannesburg. Consult your local travel agent for details.

## THE PANORAMA ROUTE

Scenically so much of the Eastern Transvaal enchants the visitor that perhaps aptly it deserves the name Panorama Route. It is a loose term however, given neither signposts nor exact limitations and interpreted variously by travel writers, individuals and concerns interested in giving prominence and significance to the area. Accordingly the contents of this brochure define only one route within the wider parameters of an arresting region, and that is the circular one, with several alternative excursions, known as the *Summit Route*.



▲ THE WILD IN SILHOUETTE



# The Summit Route and The Blyde River Canyon

An elevated and scenically compelling route encompassing those towns, villages, waterfalls, forests, peaks and valleys that are poised high on the escarpment. Within these heights visitors will find no hint of the menace which so many of the loftier peaks of the world seem to possess. There is grandeur certainly, but no repelling aloofness. The valleys are warm, clothed in a subtropical growth of evergreen trees and glossy shrubs. Seasonally scarlet-flowering aloes gleam like flames on the mountain sides. In summer cool wreaths of mist swirl about the rim-rocks; even in mid-winter the peaks are free of snow and ice.

For the sake of convenience one might say the Summit Route starts from the Long Tom Pass east of Lydenburg and includes Sabie, Graskop, the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve and the Abel Erasmus Pass, ending at the JG Strijdom Tunnel, its most northerly point, from where the motorist may head back to Sabie, White River or Nelspruit.

Although it is possible to motor along the entire Summit Route in the

course of a full day's excursion from Nelspruit, there is so much to see, to do and admire that the visitor will find it both sensible and rewarding to spend some days exploring the area. Accommodation establishments are dotted all along the route.

## LONG TOM PASS

Named after the cannon used during the Anglo-Boer War, and following the route taken by pioneer wagons transporting goods in the 1870's, this is the second highest tarred mountain pass in the country, 2 150 m above sea level. Over its entire curving length it affords splendid panoramic views of the surrounding country. Points of interest associated with the old transport road - *Devil's Knuckles*, where Long Tom was last used against the British forces, *Whisky Spruit*, the *Staircase* and the *Trading Post* - are clearly signposted. A replica of the cannon stands at Devil's Knuckles.

## SABIE

Favoured as a camping place for transport riders and explorers long before the discovery of alluvial gold in

1869 (at Spitzkop) and reef gold in 1895, Sabie is situated on a well watered, wooded terrace of the Drakensberg. And today, dominated by the impressive backdrop of the Mauchsberg and Mt Anderson, the components of its scenery such as waterfalls, streams, huge tracts of plantations and an abundance of wild flowers, all furnish the ingredients for its charm as a peaceful tourist centre.

The early mines required timber for pit-props, a need which soon exhausted the resources of the natural forests. Consequently in 1876 a large-scale planting of exotics (chiefly eucalyptus and wattle) was initiated. These so flourished that the Sabie region has become the biggest single block of man-made forest in South Africa, supplying about half the country's timber needs. It also boasts the largest sawmill in South Africa.

## THINGS TO DO AND SEE

### CORK OAK TREES

Magnificent specimens planted in 1937, in front of the Post Office, the Magistrate's Offices and the Municipal Complex.



▲ VENTURING FORTH



▲ ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, SABIE



▲ FUN AT THE MAC-MAC POOLS



## CULTURAL HISTORICAL FORESTRY MUSEUM

In Ford Street and unique within South Africa. Houses 372 exhibits on the theme of South Africa's forestry heritage, among them: petrified tree trunks, antique woodworking tools, the use of wood in the Polaris missile project, a 'talking tree', the model of a church made by a nearly blind man entirely from matches, and six visitors' participation areas. Open Mon-Fri, 09h00-13h00 and 14h00-16h00; Sat 09h00-11h30.

## DR DE WET TREE BREEDING STATION

An important institution devoted to research to improve timber yield, 16 km to the east along the Gorge Road to Hazyview. Visits by appointment, Fri 09h00-16h00. Call (0131512) 339.

## HITCHING RAIL FOR HORSES

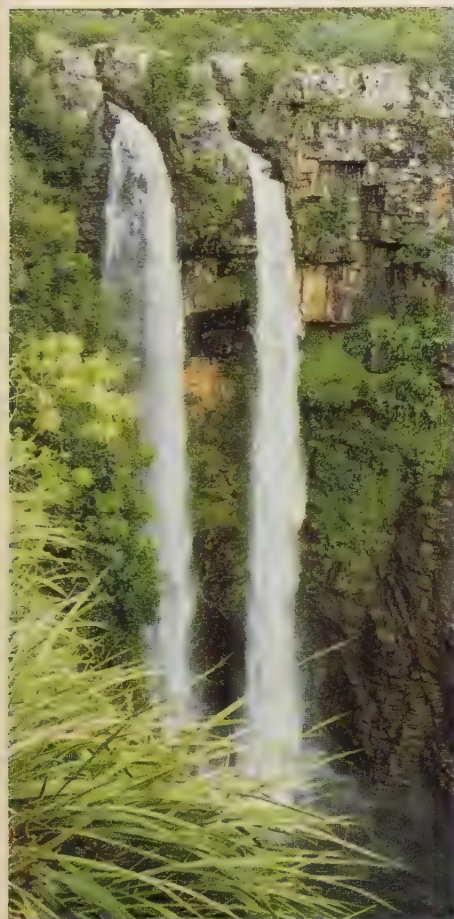
Dating from 1911, outside First National Bank.

## JOCK OF THE BUSHVELD

A plaque outside First National Bank commemorates the famous dog who, with his master, Percy Fitzpatrick, trekked through here in 1885, outspanning on the market square.

## POST OFFICE

Main Street next to the Magistrate's offices. Two coloured tiled panels on the gable depict aspects of the Kruger National Park as it was in 1936.



▲ MAC-MAC FALLS

## ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Opposite First National and Standard Banks, cnr Main Street and Market Square. Built in 1913, designed by Sir Herbert Baker (whose fee was five pounds!). Open to visitors daily during office hours.

## ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES

Hotel, motel, chalets, bungalows, Club Caraville and municipal caravan park.

*Recreation:* golf, bowls, tennis and squash at Municipal Complex. A stretch of 12,5 km of the Sabie River is reserved for trout fishing.

*Information:* The Secretary, Sabie Rainbow Trout Angling Club. Call (0131512) ask for 87.

## HOW TO GET TO SABIE

May be reached from a number of alternative routes, among them the R37 through Lydenburg over the Long Tom Pass. Most alternatives afford the scenic delights of forest plantations, glimpses of mountain peaks and the plains of the Lowveld far below.

A daily passenger bus service links Sabie with Nelspruit and Graskop. Departs/arrives at the railway station.

## FALLS IN THE VICINITY OF SABIE

### BRIDAL VEIL FALLS

Ten kilometres west of town, by road to the foot of the ridge. Ten minutes'

walk through dense indigenous forest. The name aptly describes the falls.

## HORSESHOE FALLS

Eight kilometres west of town. Site of one of the first sawmills in the area. Follow the Lone Creek Falls road, turn left after approximately seven kilometres on to a gravel road. Falls reached some three kilometres further. National monument.

## LONE CREEK FALLS

Ten kilometres west of town, by car on tarred road to base of falls, 68 m high, and then 200 m walk on paved footpath through dense forest. Spray creates rain forest effect.

## SABIE FALLS

Just outside town beyond the new road bridge. Falls viewed from underneath bridge. Further upstream is the old bridge built by Italian prisoners of war in 1915 and a wagon drift used by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick in 1885.

## HIKING TRAILS

The *Fanie Botha Hiking Trail* starts from the Ceylon Forest Station on the way to the Bridal Veil Falls.

*Information and Reservations:* The Regional Director, Eastern Transvaal Forest Region, Private Bag X503, Sabie 1260. Call (0131512) ask for 196.

The *Loerie* circular day walk starts from the same point. No reservations necessary, 15,5 km long, no charge. Further information see p 30.



▲ VIEW OF THE LONG TOM PASS



▲ CULTURAL HISTORICAL FORESTRY MUSEUM, SABIE



## ANNUAL EVENTS

### Forest Fair (every second year)

April/May

### Cycle Races and Marathons

Regularly programmed

## TOURIST INFORMATION

Publicity Department

Forestry Museum

Sabie Village Council

PO Box 61

Sabie 1260

Call (0131512) 244

From Sabie the Summit Route continues along the R532 to Graskop through grasslands and forest plantations.

## WATERFALLS AND HIKING TRAILS ALONG THE WAY TO GRASKOP

### MAC MAC POOLS

One km off the road, some 11 km beyond Sabie. The pools invite swimming in their crystal clear waters. Picnic facilities, changing rooms and toilets available.

### MAC MAC FALLS

Slightly further north, the falls plunge into a densely wooded chasm. When prospectors found gold-bearing quartz in the rocks on its rim, they dynamited the fall, creating a twin stream. The name 'Mac Mac' derives from the number of Scots who flocked to the area in the 1870's in search of gold.

### MARIA SHIRES FALLS

Further north towards Graskop.

Named after the mother of the man who first started cultivating trees commercially in the area in 1876.

### FOREST FALLS

Opposite Maria Shires Falls. Popular picnic site with braai facilities available. End of 3,2 km Forest Falls Walk through lovely area along stream.

### PROSPECTOR'S HIKING TRAIL

A five day 69 km route which starts at the Mac Mac Forest Station.

*Information and Reservations:* The Regional Director, Eastern Transvaal Forest Region, Private Bag X503, Sabie 1260. Call (0131512) ask for 196. See page 30.

## GRASKOP

A forestry village, centre of a substantial timber industry, perched on a spur of the Drakensberg escarpment. Nearby is a small indigenous forest called *Fairyland* favoured by naturalists. East of Graskop is *Kowyn's Pass*, a superb mountain road which winds down to the Lowveld. Accommodation available in hotel, huts, rondavels, Club Caraville and municipal resort.

Of interest to visitors is that before it reaches Graskop, the road from Sabie is joined by another road from the left. This narrow, winding road leads through singularly bewitching scenery to what was once the mining village of Pilgrim's Rest.

## PILGRIM'S REST

In 1873 a prospector found alluvial

gold in a stream that runs through a romantic little valley in the Drakensberg not far from the Bonnet near Graskop. Shortly afterwards he was joined by another prospector who (according to one of several legends) became convinced that his long pilgrimage in search of fortune was over and named the site 'Pilgrim's Rest'. The news of this gold discovery led to a great rush to the valley. By 1875 the place was a hive of activity (shops, canteens, bakeries and the like proliferating) with daily finds of some excellent nuggets in the stream, which came to be known as Pilgrim's Creek.

Despite the mining activity that continued until the 1970's, the romance of Pilgrim's Rest remains linked to the historic days of alluvial recovery before the turn of the century.

Consequently in 1974 the Transvaal Provincial Administration bought the entire village. In an onward programme of renovation and restoration a living open-air and indoor museum of great charm has been created - a perfect replica of a mining town born during the glorious days of the gold rush.

Most of the historic buildings, some of which now house shops and handicraft centres, line the main street. Among the many places of interest are the *Miner's House* and *Shop Museum*, the *Reduction Works* (guided tours twice daily at 10h30



▲ PANNING FOR GOLD, PILGRIM'S REST



▲ THE PINNACLE ROCK



▲ RARE MILKPLUM



▲ SHADES OF THE PAST



▲ HISTORIC BRIDGE, PILGRIM'S REST



and 14h00 weekdays and Saturdays, 10h30 on Sundays) the *Diggings Museum* with gold panning demonstrations, and *Alanglade*, a period house museum in the late Edwardian *art nouveau* and *art deco* style. The old cemetery in which many of the former adventurers and miners are buried features one grave that lies at right angles to the others, said to be that of a robber who was shot as punishment for his crime.

During school holidays there are day-long guided walking tours which take in the old mines and other historic sites. Guided horse trails are also available, and there is good trout fishing in the Blyde River (licence and daily fishing permit required, see p 30).

#### ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES

The Royal Hotel in the centre of the village, built towards the end of the 19th century, has been restored and refurbished in period style. The bar, part of what was formerly a chapel, was transported from Lourenço Marques (now Maputo) in 1893. The hotel provides limited accommodation in the main building and in two annexes. A number of fully furnished restored miners' cottages are also available. *Information:* Manager, Royal Hotel. Call (0131532) ask for 4. Alternatively there is a caravan park on the banks of the Blyde River, with a swimming pool. A section of the old

swimming pool built by the early prospectors and miners may be seen.

#### TOURIST INFORMATION

Obtainable at the *Information Centre* opposite the Royal Hotel, open 09h00-12h45 and 13h45-17h00 daily. Call (0131532) ask for 25/50.

#### MOUNT SHEBA NATURE RESERVE

Some 14 km west of Pilgrim's Rest, on the R533, there is a signposted turn off to the south which winds upwards to a plateau in the mountains. The 1 500 ha reserve embraces mountain uplands and deep, thickly wooded ravines, noted for waterfalls, bird-life and rich indigenous flora including some species of protea. The Mount Sheba *day walks* lead to many scenic spots. Admission fees payable at hotel reception. Information and booklets available.

Back on the Summit Route and continuing north from Graskop the R532 runs close to the edge of the escarpment. Places of either particular interest or haunting beauty are all clearly signposted.

#### PINNACLE ROCK

A massive free-standing granite column rising from a densely wooded gorge which forms part of the southern reaches of the Blyderiverspoort Nature Reserve.

#### GOD'S WINDOW

From a parking area a path leads to a

safety rail-on the very rim of the escarpment from where there are stupendous views of the Lowveld 1 000 m below and of forest-clad mountains. Another site nearby, *Wonder View*, necessitates a climb through a small nature reserve, or may be reached by road a little further on.

Both sites are reached by way of a scenic loop road, R534, which strikes off to the right a couple of kilometres beyond Graskop and then rejoins the main road about eight kilometres north of the town.

The *Blyderiverspoort Hiking Trail* starts from God's Window. It is a five day hike over 65 km or a two day hike over 32 km. *Information and Reservations:* see *Sabie Hiking Trails* p 13. *Further information* see p 30.

#### LISBON FALLS

On the western side of R532, reached via a gravel road. The river collects in pools before cascading over a sheer semi-circular drop. Picnic facilities available.

#### BERLIN FALLS

Three kilometres north of the Lisbon Falls, along a tarred road to the west of the R532. Footpaths lead to an observation platform above the Falls.

#### BOURKE'S LUCK POTHoles

The name 'Bourke's Luck' comes from a small but profitable gold mine in the vicinity which was worked until comparatively recently. The potholes,



▲ LISBON FALLS



at the confluence of the Treur and Blyde Rivers, appear as deep cylindrical cavities formed during the course of ages by the swirling action of pebble-laden flood water. Footpaths and pedestrian bridges allow visitors to view them to best advantage. An *Information Centre* houses a small museum with many fascinating exhibits relating to the fauna, flora and geology of the area, including a display showing how the cavities were formed. Open 08h00-16h00 daily. Entrance gate: open 07h00-17h00 daily. The Potholes lie within the *Blyderivierspoort Nature Reserve* (see below).

#### HIKING TRAILS FROM BOURKE'S LUCK

The *Eerste Liefde* hiking trail starts from Bourke's Luck. It is a two day hiking trail that stretches over 24 km. A second trail, *Op-de-Berg* also starts at Bourke's Luck. It is a four day trail over 40 km.

*Information and Reservations:* The Officer-in-Charge, Information Section, Blyderivierspoort Nature Reserve, PO, Bourke's Luck 1272. Call (0020) ask for Bourke's Luck 15. Further information see p 30.

#### BLYDE RIVER CANYON AND THE BLYDERIVIERSPOORT NATURE RESERVE

Below the defile of Bourke's Luck Potholes, and during the course of

aeons, the combined waters of the Blyde and Treur Rivers have carved out of the face of the escarpment an immense ravine. It stretches roughly parallel to the edge of the escarpment for 26 km, the river winding tortuously along the floor of the canyon, below towering buttresses, until it reaches the Lowveld plains. Densely vegetated slopes, great cliffs stained red, yellow and orange by lichens and iron oxides in the sediments, the illimitable plains far to the east, all present a scene of awesome size and enchantment.

The road from Graskop skirts the verge of the canyon and two specially constructed view sites lead to the very edge. From these the vast landscape and prominences such as the *Three Rondavels* - gigantic hut-shaped rock formations - may be seen to full advantage. The canyon lies within a 22 401 ha nature reserve.

#### FAUNA AND FLORA

The reserve shelters a large number of plant communities, from the tall trees of montane and riverine forest to cycads, aloes, proteas, heaths, orchids, ferns and mosses. These in turn provide habitats for such animals as leopard, lynx, baboon, bush pig and many of the smaller antelope. Rhebuck inhabit the grassy highlands and klipspringer scramble nimbly on the rocky ledges. Black eagles soar majestically on the air currents while

loeries call from the depths of the forest; cormorants haunt the water edges and a breeding colony of the rare and colourful bald ibis nests on the krantzes. Song birds without number add their music to the mellifluous sounds of nature.

Two public resorts, the *FH Odendaal Camp* on the rim of the canyon and the *Sybrand van Niekerk Camp* on the banks of the Blyde River in the Lowveld, have been built in the reserve. Both offer comfortable and convenient bases from which to make excursions into the mountains and the Lowveld.

#### FH ODENDAAL CAMP

Incomparably situated this resort offers several vantage points with superb views of the canyon. Within its vicinity there is much to cast a spell upon the visitor: streams, pools, waterfalls and the exalted heights of the escarpment.

#### ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES

Accommodation in self-contained, fully equipped air-conditioned chalets and luxury cottages, all with carports; a caravan park with ablution block and laundromat. Amenities include a licenced à la carte restaurant, cafeteria, bottle store, well stocked supermarket and an entertainment hall. Besides a filling station there is an airstrip (unregistered). *Sports Facilities:* tennis and badminton courts, a swimming pool, a 9-hole



▲ ASPECT OF THE FH ODENDAAL CAMP



▲ ECHO CAVES



▲ VANTAGE POINT, BLYDE RIVER CANYON



golf course, riding (limited to the area within the camp), a play park for children and a putt-putt course. Several trails run through the nature reserve from the camp. No pets allowed. *Information:* consult reception. *Inquiries and Reservations:* General Manager, Overvaal Blydepoort Public Resort, Private Bag 368, Ohrigstad 1122. Call (013231) 881/891/901/951/952.

### SYBRAND VAN NIEKERK (SWADINI) CAMP

Some 160 km from Nelspruit via R40 and R531, or - from Graskop - through the JG Strijdom Tunnel and on to R531. Situated in a warm valley below the Blyde River Dam, dominated by Mariepskop on one side and the sheer cliffs of Swadini buttress on the other. The camp is the end point of the *Blyderivierspoort Hiking Trail*. See p. 13.

### ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES

Accommodation in self-contained, fully equipped air-conditioned units, all with carports; a caravan park and camping site. Amenities include a licenced à la carte restaurant, cafeteria, shop and bottle store. *Sports Facilities:* two swimming pools (one heated) and children's pool, tennis courts, a play park, fishing in that part of the Blyde river which flows through the resort. No pets allowed. Several nature trails lead from the camp. The

*Blydepoort Dam*, a few kilometres above the camp, covers an area of 370 ha in a gorge at the confluence of the Ohrigstad and Blyde Rivers. Hippo, crocodile, many species of fish and water birds inhabit the dam. Within the vicinity there is an interpretive centre. *Information and Reservations:* The General Manager, Overvaal Sybrand van Niekerk, PO Box 281, Hoedspruit 1380. Call (0020) ask for Blydedam 1.

### SWADINI REPTILE PARK

Close to the Sybrand van Niekerk Camp but outside the nature reserve. Snakes and other reptiles (indigenous and exotic) may be viewed behind glass enclosures or in a walled open-air pen. Open daily 09h00-17h00 except Christmas Day. Conducted tours and demonstrations. *Information:* call (0131732) ask for 4921.

### MUSEUM OF MAN

Turning westward from the Blyde River Canyon, the R532 joins the main road from Lydenburg (R36) at a T-junction some 20 km south of the JG Strijdom Tunnel. A few kilometres south of this junction a gravel road leads west past this open-air museum with its rock paintings and archaeological excavations. Open daily 08h00-17h00.

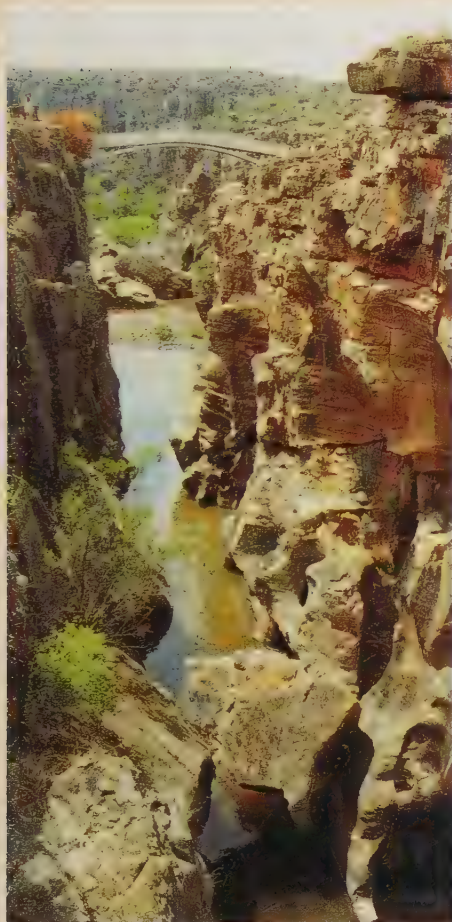
### ECHO CAVES

At the head of the Molopong Valley, these caves are of considerable

historical significance since tools and implements dating from the Middle and Late Stone Ages and the early Iron Age have been found within them and there is evidence of prolonged occupation. In some of the subterranean chambers, six of which are open to visitors, there are drip-stone formations which echo when tapped, hence the name of the complex. The largest chamber in the caves is 100 m long, 40 m high. Guided tours available. Open 08h00-17h00 daily.

### ABEL ERASMUS PASS AND JG STRIJDOM TUNNEL

Turning north after leaving the Blyde Canyon road, the motorist reaches the winding Abel Erasmus Pass which rises 335 m above the Ohrigstad River and descends more than 700 m through spectacular scenery to the Olifants River, which flows in a north-easterly direction towards the Kruger National Park. The last section of the pass is dominated by thickly vegetated gorges and huge, almost luminously red, orange and yellow krantzies. Cutting through part of them is the 132 m Strijdom Tunnel, named after one of South Africa's Prime Ministers. At the far end the visitor is presented with a dramatic view of the escarpment plunging down to the north of the Olifants River below and the Lowveld stretching into the distance.



▲ BOURKE'S LUCK POTHOLE



▲ PROTEA CYNAROIDES, MOUNT SHEBA



At this point the motorist heading back to Sabie or Nelspruit may take the upper road (R36) via Lydenburg and the Long Tom Pass. It leads through some rich agricultural country in which tobacco, vegetables, peaches, sunflowers and grain crops are cultivated in the valleys, and passes through a small village called *Ohrigstad* founded in 1845 by the Voortrekker (pioneer) leader Andries Pretorius, who later abandoned it as a fever trap. Only in fairly recent years has the conquest of malaria led to the resettlement of the area.

Some 18 km south of Ohrigstad is a turn off (R533) which leads over *De Berg Pass*, also known as *Robber's Pass*, to Pilgrim's Rest. Before the pass a road to the right leads to *Ohrigstad Dam Nature Reserve* which, besides good angling, offers various species of game and birds.

## LYDENBURG

When the Voortrekkers (pioneers) moved from Ohrigstad in 1849 to a higher position, they chose Lydenburg ('town of suffering') as a site for a new town, the name a reference to their recent hardships. Situated in a warm and pleasant valley, with well stocked streams and dams in the neighbourhood affording excellent fishing, Lydenburg is an agricultural, administrative and communications centre.

## THINGS TO DO AND SEE

### GUSTAV KLINGBIEL NATURE RESERVE

On the road to the Long Tom Pass. The reserve, 2 200 ha in extent, accommodates a variety of game and an abundant bird-life. Interesting ruins date from late Iron Age. Picnic facilities and hiking trails available.

### HATCHERIES

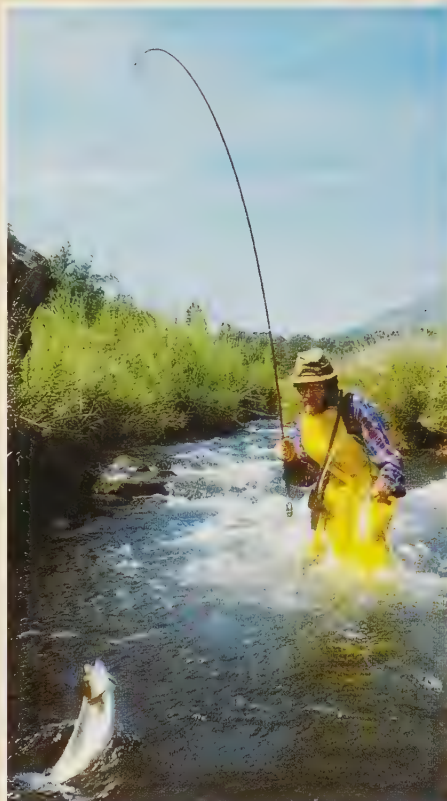
On the south-eastern edge of the town the hatcheries of the Transvaal Provincial Administration Fisheries Institute - which are devoted to the breeding of several species of freshwater fish for stocking purposes - provide an aquarium on the site. Open daily 08h00-16h00.

### MUSEUM

This interesting little museum exhibits cultural, archaeological and ethno-graphical themes. Cnr Voortrekker and Viljoen Streets. Open weekdays 09h00-12h00 and 14h00-16h15; Sat. 09h00-12h00. Closed Sundays and public holidays. Museum to be moved to Gustav Klingbiel Nature Reserve during 1989.

### POWDER MAGAZINE

Used by the British garrison that was besieged in Lydenburg during the



▲ ART OF THE TROUT FISHERMAN



▲ RESTORED VOORTREKKER SCHOOL



▲ EXPLORING THE AREA ON HORSEBACK

Anglo-Boer War. Viljoen Street. Call (01323) 2121 for an appointment.

**VOORTREKKER MOTHER CHURCH**  
Built shortly after the founding of Lydenburg. Although no longer used, it is the oldest existing Dutch Reformed Church building in the Transvaal. In the same grounds is the church built in 1894, which replaced it. Cnr Church and Kantoor Streets. Appointments: call (01323) 2121.

**VOORTREKKER SCHOOL**  
Church Street. Built in 1851, the oldest remaining school building in the Transvaal. Visits by appointment only. Call the museum curator: (01323) 2121.

### ZAR POST BOX

Manufactured in 1893 and erected in Lydenburg in 1895. Kantoor Street in front of the Voortrekker School.

### ANNUAL EVENTS

#### **Peach Festival**

January - biennially

#### **Water Carnival**

March

#### **Long Tom Marathon**

April

### TOURIST INFORMATION

Town Clerk's Office

PO Box 61

Lydenburg

1120

Call (01323) 2121

*A large map on the corner of Voortrekker and Viljoen Streets directs visitors to scenic attractions in the vicinity.*

### MAP 3: THE LOWVELD, SUMMIT ROUTE AND BLYDE RIVER CANYON

- |    |    |                                  |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| 1  | B1 | J G Strijdom Tunnel              |
| 2  | B1 | Echo Caves                       |
| 3  | B1 | Abel Erasmus Pass                |
| 4  | C2 | Blyde River Canyon               |
| 5  | C2 | Blyderivierspoort Nature Reserve |
| 6  | C2 | Bourke's Luck Potholes           |
| 7  | C3 | Mount Sheba Nature Reserve       |
| 8  | C3 | Pilgrim's Rest                   |
| 9  | C3 | Graskop                          |
| 10 | C3 | God's Window                     |
| 11 | A4 | Lydenburg                        |
| 12 | B4 | Long Tom Pass                    |
| 13 | C4 | Sabie                            |
| 14 | B5 | Dinosaur Park                    |
| 15 | B5 | Sudwala Caves                    |
| 16 | D5 | Nelspruit                        |
| 17 | D5 | White River                      |

### TOURIST INFORMATION AND ADVICE

- |   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
| A | D5 | Regional Office of the South African Tourism Board |
| B | D5 | Panorama Tourism Association                       |
| C | C4 | Sabie Publicity Department                         |
| D | C3 | Pilgrim's Rest Information Centre                  |







# The Lowveld South of Nelspruit

From Nelspruit a fine scenic road (R40) leads to the Valley of De Kaap and to Barberton. Some 14 km from Nelspruit the road climbs to a point from which there is an impressive panoramic view of the whole wide and fertile valley.

## BARBERTON

Though known to early prospectors as 'The Valley of Death' this historic part of the Transvaal Lowveld constantly attracted late 19th century fortune hunters, lured by the promise of gold but at the peril of contracting malaria. In 1883 a persistent prospector discovered the Pioneer Reef near Moodies which yielded the first really payable lode. This brought a rush of prospectors to the scene. Among them were members of a family - two Barber brothers and a cousin - who in 1884 located a vein of great promise near where Barberton lies today. They named it Barber's Reef.

The find was reported to the Mining Commissioner. He realized that the place was bound to attract a flood of humanity, that a village or town would inevitably materialize. So,

breaking a bottle of gin over the site he christened the camp 'Barberton'.

By the end of 1885 its population numbered 8 000. Many fortunes changed hands, many shady deals were perpetrated. Nightly, celebrated beauties, such as the legendary Cockney Liz, reigned supreme in an explosion of gaiety.

Not all the deposits were as rich as claimed. One exception was Bray's Golden Quarry on the Sheba Reef: a separate town known as Eureka City (see below) high above the valley was established to serve this remarkable mine.

By 1888, with profits failing to bring the expected rewards to overseas investors, and more particularly with the discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand in 1886, Barberton's gold bubble burst. It became a sedate and hard-working community. The Barberton of today is a vastly different place from what it was a hundred years ago, although memorabilia of its origins, of those romantic, rumbustious days, are still in evidence.

The centre of an agricultural district specializing in subtropical crops, timber

and cattle, it is a tranquil town set against a background of the beautiful Makhonjwa mountains.

## CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

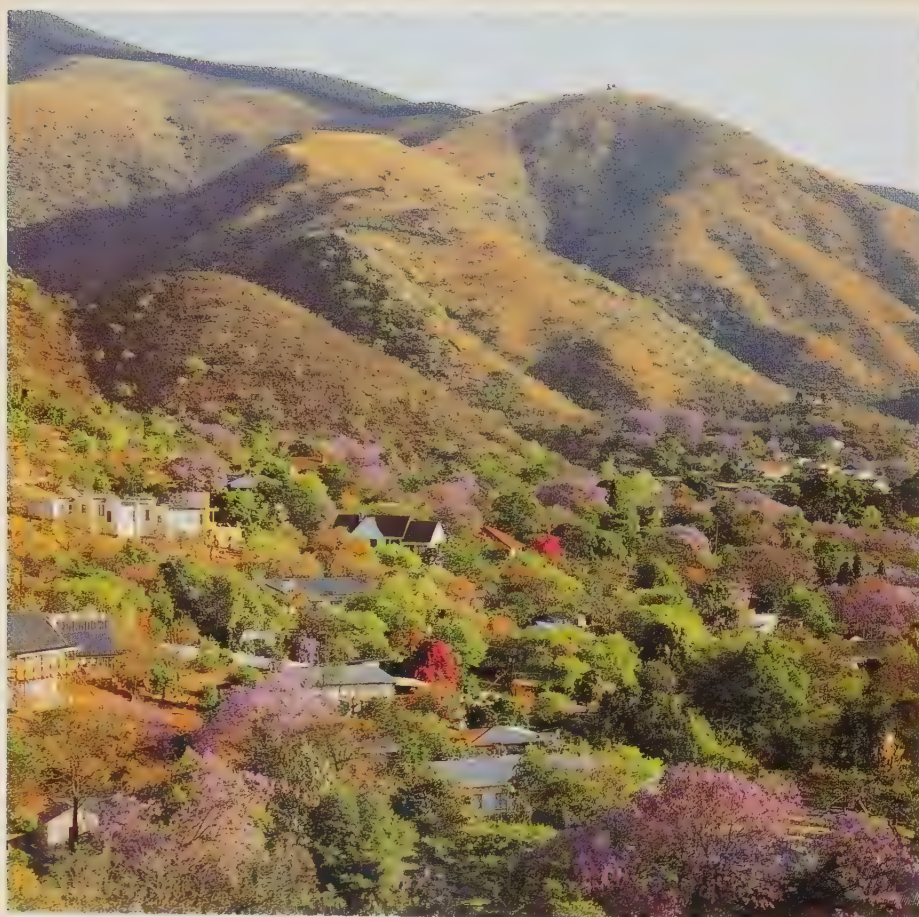
Trees such as the flamboyant and jacaranda give shade and colour to Barberton's streets. The Barberton daisy, *Gerbera jamesonii*, indigenous to the area, is the parent plant of many hybrids grown in parks, gardens and hothouses throughout the world. In common with the rest of the Lowveld temperatures may rise in summer, but winter is a delightful season.

## THINGS TO DO AND SEE AERIAL CABLEWAY

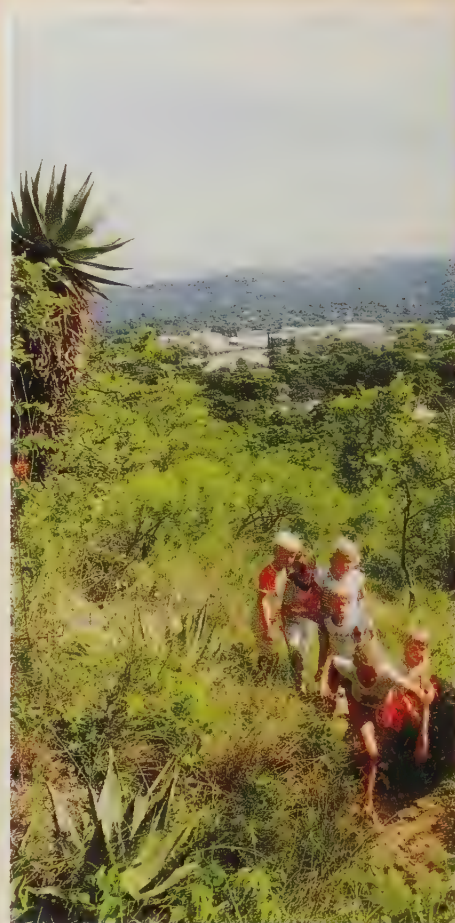
Links the Havelock Asbestos Mine, 20 km away among the mountains in Swaziland, with the railhead at Barberton. Terminal in Dale Street opposite the old railway engine outside Fitzpatrick Caravan Park.

## BARBERTON MUSEUM

Portrays old Barberton within the theme 'The Valley of Death to the Valley of Gold'. Open Mon-Fri 10h00-17h00. Sat 10h00-13h00. Closed Sundays and religious



▲ BARBERTON, WREATHED IN JACARANDAS



▲ YOUTHFUL ZEST



holidays. Located in the Public Library, Pilgrim Street.

**BELLHAVEN HOUSE MUSEUM**  
Preserved as an example of the elegant lifestyle of a well-to-do family at the turn of the century. Open Tues-Fri. Conducted tours 10h00, 11h00, 14h00, 15h00 and Sat 10h00 and 11h00. Lee Street.

**FAÇADE OF THE KAAP GOLD FIELD STOCK EXCHANGE**  
First stock exchange in South Africa. National monument, Pilgrim Street.

**JOCK OF THE BUSHVELD STATUE**  
In front of the Town Hall. Barberton was for years the home of Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, author of the book *Jock of the Bushveld*.

**LEWIS & MARKS BUILDING**  
One of the first double-storey buildings erected in the Transvaal (1886/87), now houses the head office of the Eastern Consolidated Mines. Not open to the public. National monument. Next to historic Phoenix Hotel in Pilgrim Street.

**THE GLOBE**  
Built as a pub in 1887, now occupied by private business concern, not open to the public. National monument, Pilgrim Street.

**THE GUARD HOUSE**  
A national monument, built during the Anglo-Boer War. Unique construction, only one of its kind in South Africa. At the foot of Rimers Creek.



▲ MONUMENT TO JOCK OF THE BUSHVELD

**ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES**

Two hotels in town, a Municipal caravan park and chalets; holiday cottages in vicinity. Sports include bowls, golf and tennis and for *hang gliding enthusiasts* Barberton offers one of the most popular launching pads in the country from *Lone Tree Hill*, with a selection of safe landing sites below. Permission is required to use the launching pads. For further information call (01314) 2 3151.

MAP 4: THE LOWVELD SOUTH OF NELSPRUIT

1 A1

Machadodorp

2 A1

Waterval-Onder

3 B1

Barberton

4 B1

Eureka City

5 A2

Nooitgedacht Dam Nature Reserve

6 A2

Carolina

7 A2

Breyten

8 A2

Lake Chrissie

9 B2

Badplaas

10 A3

Douglas Dam

11 A3

Ermelo

12 A3

Jericho Dam

13 A4

Volkstrust

14 A4

Wakkerstroom

15 A4

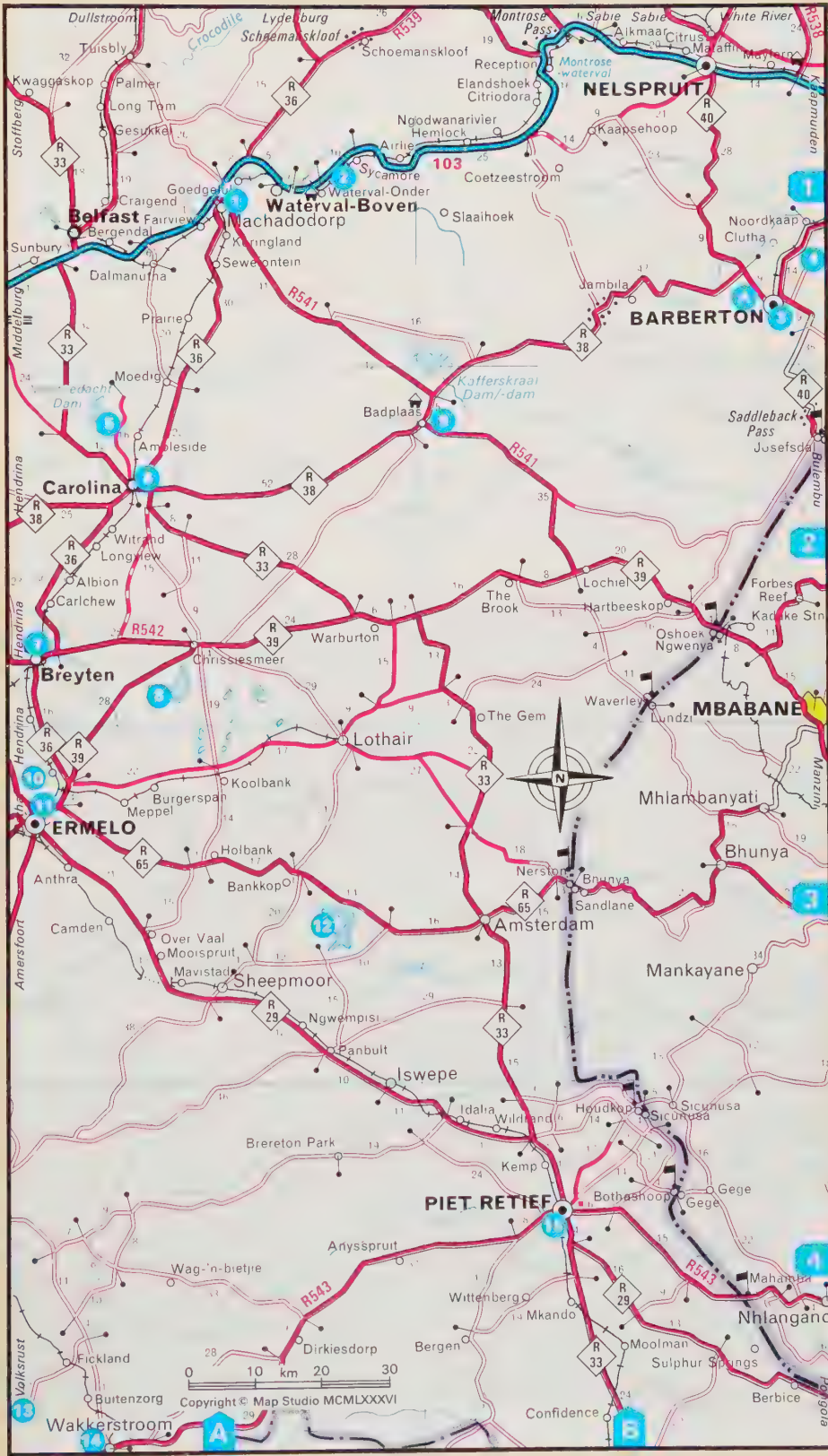
Piet Retief

For Lowveld East of Nelspruit see Map of the Area

TOURIST INFORMATION AND ADVICE

A B1

Barberton and District Publicity Association





## HIKING TRAILS

The *Gold Nugget Hiking Trail* starts from Barberton. It can be done as a three day hike over 44 km or a two day hike over 37 km. *Information and Reservations:* Makhonjwa Conservation Foundation, PO Box 221, Barberton 1300. Call (01314) 2 3374. The *Fortuna Mine Trail* offers a fascinating 2 km walk which starts from the centre of town, traverses the *Indigenous Tree Park* which contains about 100 species of trees, all indigenous to Barberton and the Lowveld, and passes through a tunnel 600 m long which was driven through the rocks 80 years ago to bring gold-bearing ore to the Fortuna Mine Mill. A torch and stout walking shoes essential. No reservations except for large groups. Call (01314) 2 3373. Further information see p 30.

## THINGS TO DO AND SEE

### JOCK OF THE BUSHVELD CAIRN

13 km along Noordkaap road under an acacia where Jock and his master often camped.

### RUINS OF EUREKA CITY

Reached by travelling about 25 km on Kaapmuiden/Malelane road; on right-hand side take Sheba Mine turn-off; 10 km to mine for information on the road up to Eureka (4-wheel drive vehicles recommended). Not much to see in the way of ruins, but a

splendidly romantic site within an area of great charm.

A recommended excursion from Barberton is to motor along the road down the *De Kaap Valley* past *Noordkaap* and *Louw's Creek* to *Kaapmuiden* where the visitor can turn left to Nelspruit. Not only is the scenery along this route most impressive but there are many evocative associations with the old gold rush days.

### TOURIST INFORMATION

*Barberton and District Publicity Association*  
Market Square  
PO Box 221  
Barberton  
1300  
Call (01314) 2 3373

## THE LOWVELD EAST OF NELSPRUIT

The main N4 road leading east from Nelspruit follows the course of the *Crocodile River* for some distance, past some beguiling scenery especially at the *Crocodile River Poort*. At *Kaapmuiden* there is a turn off to *Barberton* (R38) which provides an alternative route to the more direct R40 to that town. On either side of the road there is intense cultivation of various subtropical fruits, but sugarcane fields soon prevail, so much so that at *Malelane* a veritable sea of green dominates the landscape. At

*Malelane* the *TSB Sugar Factory* offers conducted tours in the mornings from June to December by prior arrangement. (No children under 12 yrs old: women are advised to wear slacks.) Call (013133) 23.

Five kilometres to the north of the village is the *Malelane Gate and Camp*, the most southerly entrance to the *Kruger National Park* (see p. 8). The road finally reaches the Mozambique border post, but just before this point there is a turn off to the frontier town of *Komatipoort*, among the warmest towns in the Transvaal and recommended as a centre for tiger fishing. Enthusiasts are advised to contact the local police station for information about the best places to fish. (Licences: see p. 30.) From the N4 to Komatipoort a road leads to *Crocodile Bridge*, the easternmost gateway to the *Kruger National Park*.



▲ BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. DINOSAUR PARK



▲ BARBERTON DAISY. GERBERA SP.



▲ FIVE ARCHES BRIDGE, WATERVAL-ONDER



# The Lowveld West of Nelspruit

From Nelspruit the main road to the west is a combination of the N4 and the R539 leading over *Montrose Pass* and past *Montrose Falls*. However, about five kilometres before Montrose Falls, the R539 branches off to the north-west, the road to the Sudwala Caves, Dinosaur Park and Sabie.

## THE SUDWALA CAVES AND DINOSAUR PARK

Of immense interest to scientists, speleologists, tourists, these caves - a linked series of chambers adorned with stalactites and stalagmites - penetrate deep into the dolomitic rock of the Mankelekele mountain. It is not yet known how far they extend but the area accessible to the general public is large and complex enough to satisfy any adventurous spirit. The caves are dominated by the *PR Owen Hall*, a natural subterranean amphitheatre 67 m in diameter with a dome rising 37 m above floor level. The acoustics of this chamber are so good and the sloping terraces so convenient for seating an audience, that the hall has been used for concerts and choral recordings. Many fantastic flowstone and dripstone formations, such as the *Screaming Monster* and the *Weeping Madonna*, are to be seen in the complex of caverns, subtly lit to show their natural colours. Notable on the ceilings are specimens of fossilised algae called *Collenia*, a form of life that flourished 2 000 million years ago. Keeping the caves at a constant average of 17°C is a steady current of fresh air from an unknown source.

### GUIDED TOURS

Daily every half hour from 08h30-16h30. By special arrangement, 6-hour tours to the distant *Crystal Chambers* are conducted on Saturdays. *Information:* call (0131232) ask for 3913.

### DINOSAUR PARK

On a hillside adjacent to the caves in a setting of indigenous flora which includes cycads (descendants, unchanged in appearance and character, of a flora that existed 150 million years ago) is this unique Dinosaur Park. It contains life-sized and life-like replicas of many of the giant prehistoric reptiles and mammals, some of which roamed South Africa as long ago as 250 million years. On a rocky ledge above the animals are a pair of models of

early man *Australopithecus* - a reconstruction of what these 'missing links' may have looked like. The park is open daily from 08h00-17h30.

### ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES

A resort complex below the caves on the banks of the Houtbosloop River offers fully furnished double rooms with television; a caravan park and camping sites; an à la carte restaurant, swimming pool and tennis court. Several delightful nature walks and hikes available. Curio shop near the caves.

### INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

*General Manager*  
Sudwala  
PO Box 30  
Schagen  
1207

Call (0131232) ask for 3913. Rejoining the main road from Nelspruit the motorist is confronted at *Montrose Falls* with a choice of two routes, where the R539 diverges from the N4. The R539 ascends *Schoemanskloof* to *Machadodorp*, whereas the N4 runs through the *Elands River Valley* and reaches the Highveld at *Waterval-Boven*.

The Schoemanskloof road is attractively rustic and does not carry a great deal of traffic: the road through the Elands River Valley is the main trunk route. Passing the massive Ngodwana Paper Mills, it skirts the small settlements of *Sycamore* and *Waterval-Onder*.

### WATERVAL-ONDER

In the grounds of the hotel, which was originally built as a staging post for coaches in 1879, is *Krugerhof*, an old homestead, now a national monument, where President Paul Kruger spent some of his last days in South Africa before the end of the Anglo-Boer War.

### WATERVAL-BOVEN

Beyond Waterval-Onder the road winds upwards for ten kilometres before reaching *Waterval-Boven*, established in 1894 by the Dutch pioneers of the *Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg Maatschappij*. The name of the village is derived from the fact that it is situated on the plateau above the Elands River Waterfall. Not far from the top on the

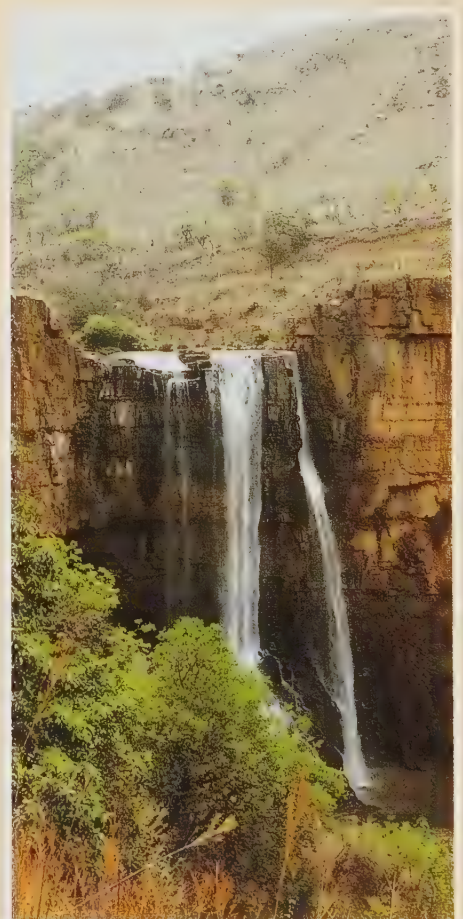
righthand side of the road is the old *NZASM Railway Tunnel*, 400 m long and built in 1892/3 as part of the Eastern Line connecting Pretoria with Mozambique. To achieve the 1-in-20 climb from the Lowveld to the Highveld, a rack railway was used and a small portion of the cogged line may still be seen in the tunnel. Near it the *Elands River* plunges over a precipice, forming a splendid waterfall. The falls, the old tunnel and an old stone bridge below, known as the *Five Arches Bridge*, are all national monuments within a proclaimed nature reserve.

### ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is available at two hotels and at a holiday resort on the outskirts of Waterval-Boven.

### HIKING TRAILS

The *Elandskrans Hiking Trail* extends from Waterval-Boven to Waterval-Onder and takes one or two days. *Information and Reservations:* The Manager, Elandskrans Holiday Resort, PO Box 53, Waterval-Boven 1195. Call (013262) 176. Further information see p. 30.



▲ ELANDS RIVER FALLS

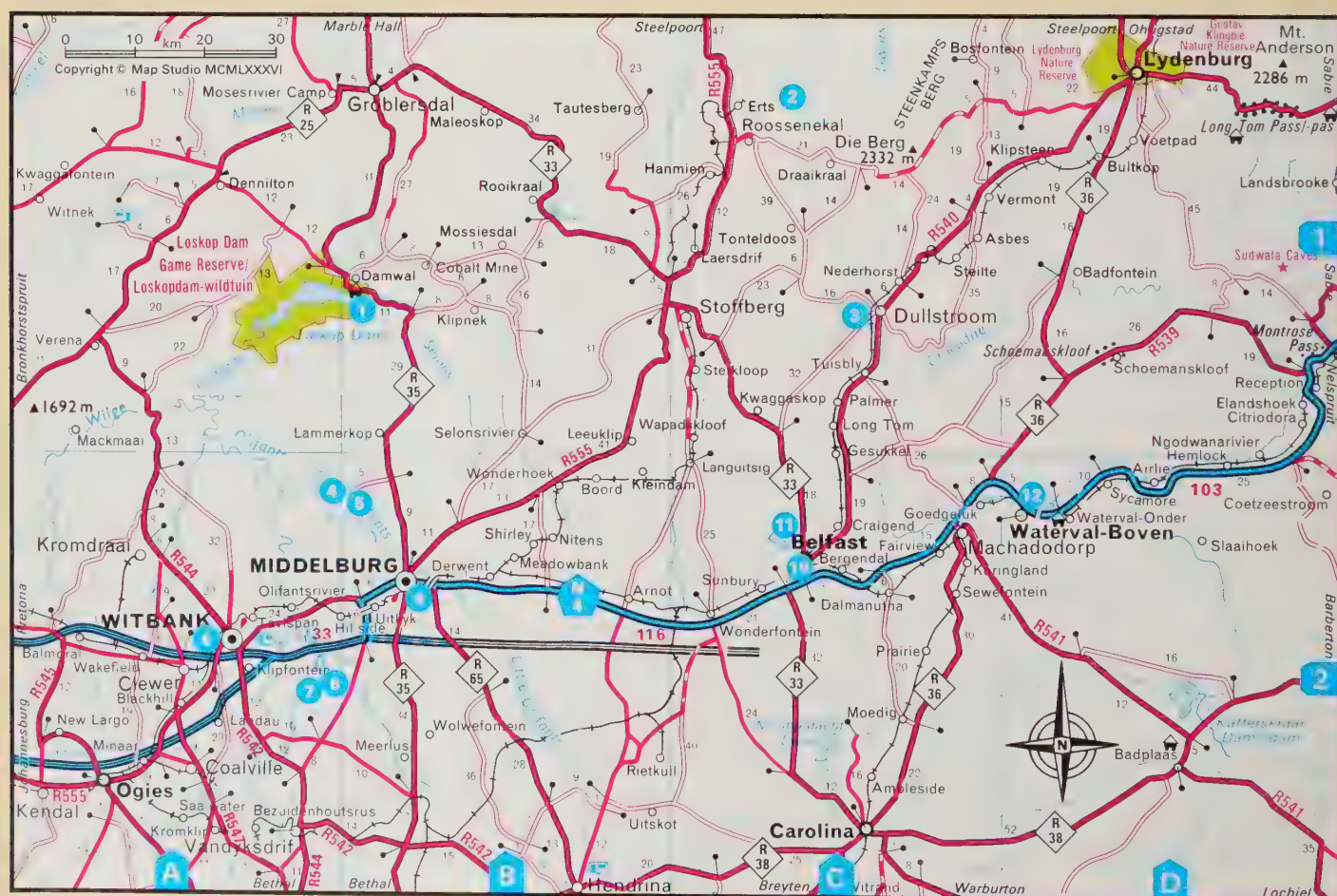




◀ TRANQUIL SETTING, PINE LAKE

## MAP 5: THE REGION WEST OF WATERVAL-BOVEN

- |    |    |  |
|----|----|--|
| 1  | B1 | Loskop Dam Public Resort                 |
| 2  | C1 | Mapoch's Caves                           |
| 3  | C1 | Dullstroom                               |
| 4  | A2 | Fort Merensky                            |
| 5  | B2 | Botshabelo Museum and Ndebele<br>Village |
| 6  | A2 | Witbank                                  |
| 7  | A2 | Witbank Dam                              |
| 8  | A2 | C R Swart Nature Reserve                 |
| 9  | B2 | Middelburg                               |
| 10 | C2 | Belfast                                  |
| 11 | C2 | Belfast Dam                              |
| 12 | D2 | Waterval-Boven                           |





# The Eastern Transvaal Highveld and Middleveld

From Waterval-Boven the visitor has a choice of two routes: one via *Machadodorp* to *Ermelo* and from there to *Pongola*, *Volksrust* or *Standerton*; the other westwards via *Belfast* to *Witbank*, *Pretoria* and the *Witwatersrand*. This section will consequently be divided into two, describing the tourist attractions south and west of Waterval-Boven.

## PLACES OF INTEREST SOUTH OF WATerval-BOVEN

### MACHADODORP

Named in honour of General Joachim Machado, a Portuguese engineer, surveyor and former Governor of Mozambique, who played an important part in the construction of the railway line between Pretoria and Lourenço Marques, now Maputo. The town began life as a railway station when the line was opened in 1894. It has a cool, bracing climate and the stream that runs through it is stocked with trout. A short distance out of town to the south-east (R541) are *radio active thermal baths* reputed to have exceptional medicinal properties. A hotel at the baths provides

accommodation, tennis, riding. Fishing permits may also be obtained here.

### HIKING TRAIL

The McManus Hiking Trail of 19 km starts at the Elandshoogte Plantation situated between Machadodorp and Ngodwana. No accommodation available. *Information and Reservations:* The Plantation Supervisor, SAPPI, PO Box 141, Machadodorp 1170. Call (013242) 1630.

### CAROLINA

Situated at an altitude of 1 710 m in a region known for its exceptionally cold winters, the town serves a maize, dairy and stock farming area. An agricultural show is held annually.

Just north of the town is the *Nooitgedacht Dam Nature Reserve*. No overnight accommodation is available in the reserve but the dam is a great attraction for local anglers and wind-surfers. Small yacht club available. *Information:* call (01344) 3 2603.

Eastwards from Carolina the road (R38) gradually descends to warmer country and the valley of the *Komati River* until it reaches Badplaas.

### BADPLAAS

In a beautiful area of undulating grasslands on the foothills of the Hlumu Hlumu Mountains there is a thermal spring long renowned for its beneficial properties. The water has been piped into a series of baths and the place has become a popular spa. There are private baths for the use of invalids, eight recreational swimming pools, a giant water slide and other amenities: restaurants, shops, a post office, banking facilities and those for tennis, bowls, mini-golf, riding and angling. The resort also comprises a 3 800 ha nature reserve.

*Accommodation:* self-contained thatched rondavels, semi-detached flatlets, a hotel and caravan park.

*Information and Reservations:* General Manager, Overvaal Badplaas, PO Box 15, Badplaas 1190. Call (013482) 7.

A hotel, rondavels and huts in the vicinity of the resort also provide accommodation.

### BREYTEN

A small town south of Carolina. A couple of kilometres south of Breyten



▲ FUN AT BADPLAAS



▲ CAUGHT IN THE ACT



▲ ROMANTIC INTERLUDE



a spring forms the source of the Vaal River: in fact the town is situated on a watershed from where the Vaal River flows westwards to the Atlantic, and the Komati and Olifants rivers run east towards the Lowveld and the Indian Ocean. Across the road from the spring is the so-called mail coach rock bearing inscriptions of early transport drivers.

## CHRISSIESMEER

A small village situated east of Breyten on R39 and named after a nearby stretch of water, *Lake Chrissie*, the largest natural freshwater lake in South Africa, renowned for the number and variety of waterfowl, such as flamingo. Good angling and camping sites available.

## ERMELO

Noted for modern collieries and a huge power station, Ermelo is also the centre of a rich agricultural district, being the largest wool producing district in the RSA. The *Nooitgedacht Agricultural Research Station* four kilometres out of town on the road to Bethal may be visited. An agricultural show is held annually in May.

Several dams in the vicinity provide opportunities for fishing and boating, the best known being *Douglas Dam* in *Republic Park*, some seven kilometres out of town on R64 to Hendrina, where there are recreational and accommodation facilities. The adjacent Country Club caters for the sports enthusiast, offering amongst other facilities, a modern golf course. A proclaimed nature reserve nearby features blesbok, springbok, duiker and zebra. The *Jericho Dam* some 60 km from Ermelo on the road to Amsterdam is a popular angling resort. Camping facilities available. *Information:* call (013421) 307. The *Westoe Dam* approximately 15 km further along the road to Amsterdam is also a popular venue.

Interesting ruins of corbelled stone huts, the largest settlement of its kind in the country, built by the now extinct Leghoya/Tlokoa people, are situated 24 km from Ermelo. Follow R29 to Bethal, turning right 10 km from Ermelo to Tafelkop. A giant-like footprint 1,25 metres long, the so-called Goliath's Footprint, can be seen on a rockface in a beautifully afforested area on the farm Arthur's Seat near Lothair. Another interesting phenomenon is a natural rock bridge across the Vaal River on the farm Goedehoop, some 20 km from Ermelo on the road to Lothair. Bushman paintings occur on the farm Welgelegen 23 km from Ermelo on R65 to Swaziland.

As these attractions are situated on

private farms, permission to view them must be obtained from the owners. Details available from the Town Clerk. Call (01341) 2112.

## BETHAL

Bethal serves a coal mining and agricultural district which produces 60% of the country's potato crop as well as rich crops of maize and sunflowers. Sheep and cattle farming is also practised. Accommodation is available in three hotels and at the holiday resort at the *Bethal Dam* on the outskirts of the town. Recreational facilities at the resort include swimming pools, trampolines, a super tube, children's playground and restaurant. Caravan park and picnic and braai facilities for day visitors also available.

## PIET RETIEF

From Ermelo to Piet Retief, named after the ill-fated Voortrekker (pioneer) leader who was murdered in Natal by the Zulu Chief, Dingaan, the road to the south-east steadily descends towards lower-lying country. The *Heyshope Dam* some 30 km out of town on the road to Wakkerstroom offers opportunities for angling.

## PONGOLA

Beyond Piet Retief the R29, which finally connects with the N2 of Northern Natal, drops down to the Lowveld, reaching *Pongola*, which is situated in a narrow segment of the Transvaal sandwiched between Swaziland and Natal. Sugar cane and sub-tropical fruits are cultivated in the area. The *Pongola Dam* east of the town provides opportunities for angling. Camping facilities available.

## VOLKSRUST

From Ermelo motorists may take the R36 to Volksrust. Overlooking the town to the south are the heights of *Amajuba* ('place of rock pigeons'), scene of one of the most celebrated battles of the Anglo-Transvaal War (1881) when British forces were ignominiously defeated by Transvaal troops. The mountain may be climbed with fair ease from the Volksrust side. On the summit is a memorial to Gen. Sir George Colley who led the British troops and lost his life in the engagement.

The ruins of *Convention Bridge* may be seen just south of the town on the Natal/Transvaal border. President Paul Kruger, representing the Transvaal Republic, and Sir Henry Loch, the British Colony of Natal, met here to negotiate the signing of the third Swaziland Convention in November 1894.

Various dams in the vicinity provide sporting and other recreational

opportunities. The *Mahawe Dam* some 2 km from the town has a caravan park and picnic sites. The *Slangrivier Dam*, 25 km from Volksrust, and the *Schuilhoek Dam*, 10 km out of town, are popular angling venues. Two hotels offer accommodation. The annual agricultural show takes place in September.

## WAKKERSTROOM

On the R543 leading to Piet Retief. Features an historic road bridge, now a national monument, erected by the government of the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek* before the construction of stone bridges became common. Completed in 1893, it has a steel superstructure imported from Germany. Next to the bridge, in the waters of the Marthinus Wesselstroom, South Africa's first black Zionists were baptised in 1904 by D. Bryant of the American Christian Catholic Church in Zion. Wakkerstroom can thus claim to be the cradle of Black Zionism in South Africa. Examples of rock art to be seen on private farms in the district. Hotel accommodation available in town and at caravan park at *Martins Dam*. Opportunities for angling and watersports at dam.

## STANDERTON

From Ermelo the R39 reaches Standerton, the scene of a confrontation between Briton and Boer in the 1880/1 war. British troops were besieged in the town while Republican forces kept them under rifle fire from the nearby hill, *Standers Kop*. The town features one of the largest dairy factories in the southern hemisphere. Conducted tours available.

Also of interest is the *Kruger Bridge* over the Vaal River opened by President Paul Kruger in 1891, the residence of Gen. *Louis Botha* on the farm Rusthof and the *Standerskop Game Reserve* 4 km out of town on the Robertsdrif Road. Opportunities for angling and watersports available at *River Park* on the banks of the Vaal and at *Grootdraai Dam* 8 km from town. Caravan parks at both resorts. Hotel and chalet accommodation available in town. The Nestlé 7 Condensed Milk Marathon is held annually in March and an Agricultural Show in September.

## SECUNDA

Secunda owes its origin to the establishment of the Sasol II and III oil-from-coal plants. Guided tours by appointment only. Call (01363) 40 3322. Three of the largest coal-fired power stations in the southern hemisphere are also situated in the vicinity. Watersports opportunities at the *Trichardtsfontein Recreational Resort*.



## KINROSS

Kinross serves a maize, wheat and dairy farming area and is situated on the crest of the watershed between the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. *Leeupan*, 25 km from the village, and various other dams in the vicinity offer angling opportunities.

## LEANDRA

Established in 1976 after the amalgamation of the towns Leslie and Eendracht. Serves a gold and coal mining area. A recreation resort on the outskirts of the town offers accommodation, a caravan park and swimming facilities. This part of the Highveld is renowned for the colourful cosmos plants which flower profusely from March.

## BALFOUR

Originally established in 1896 under the name of McHattiesburg, but renamed Balfour in 1906 in honour of Arthur Balfour, the British Prime Minister who visited the town in that year. Maize farming and coal mining in the district. A recreation resort 10 km out of town has camping and caravan facilities.

## PLACES OF INTEREST WEST OF WATERVAL-BOVEN

### BELFAST

Situated at an altitude of 1 970 m, Belfast was founded in 1890 by a man with family connections in Northern Ireland. Today it is a centre for sheep and dairy farming and the district is renowned for timber, black granite and the large-scale cultivation

of bulbs, especially tulips. Fishing in the local streams is good and the dams are stocked with trout, black bass and carp. The *Belfast Dam* offers a caravan park and facilities for aquatic sports. The town also has a nine hole golf course and a swimming pool. Within Belfast's cemetery is a monument to the First World War heroine, *Edith Cavell*, and about six kilometres east of the town near the road to Machadodorp is the *Berg-en-Dal Monument*, erected as a tribute to the burghers who lost their lives at this spot during the last pitched battle of the Anglo-Boer War.

### DULLSTROOM

To the north of Belfast. Scarcely lacklustre as its name implies, this small town's name derives from a Hollander, Wolterus Dull, who directed an immigration settlement scheme in the vicinity in the 1880's. Situated 2 379 m above sea level, among rugged hills where the western reaches of the Lowveld rise toward the escarpment, it boasts the highest railway station in Southern Africa at nearby *Nederhorst*. Although many of the original Dutch settlers departed during the Anglo-Boer War, the elm and beech trees they planted remain as a living memorial to their activities. Standing sentinel over the town is *Die Berg*, part of the *Steenkampsberg Range* and highest point in the Transvaal. The many mountain streams and dams in the area are richly stocked with trout, indeed Dullstroom is famed among the fishing fraternity for the unparalleled

opportunities it provides. *Inquiries* in this connection: call (0132522) ask for 29. A trout festival is held annually in October.

North-west of Dullstroom and six kilometres north of *Roosenekal* is the area known as *Mapoch's Caves*. It is a wild part of the Bothasberg, a tumbled mass of rocks, caves, clefts, passages and ancient ruins. In the middle of the 19th century the area was occupied by Chief Mapoch of the Ndebele tribe. He and later his son, Njabel, who took refuge in Mapoch's Caves, warred against the forces of the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek*, the most ferocious battles taking place during 1882/3. The caves have been declared a national monument. Also in the vicinity are *Fort Mapoch* and a statue of Njabel.

### MIDDELBURG

About 45 km west of Belfast, and today a modern agricultural and industrial centre, Middelburg reflects some interesting reminders of the days of the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek* in the presence of the *Old Railway Station* and *Meyers Bridge* (both built in the 1890's) and the historic *Witkerk*, now a national monument. Within the vicinity of the town the *Kruger Dam Resort* provides swimming, fishing, accommodation, camping and caravan sites.

### HIKING TRAILS

In the vicinity of Middelburg are four hiking trails. They may be walked as day routes, but overnight huts are available.

Information: call (01321) 2 5331.



▲ TWILIGHT ON THE HIGHVELD



## FORT MERENSKY AND BOTSHABELO MISSION STATION

Accessible via a turn off to the west nine kilometres along the R35 from Middelburg to Loskop Dam. In 1865 the Rev. Alexander Merensky (father of Dr Hans Merensky, the famous geologist who discovered diamonds at Alexander Bay) established a mission station called Botshabelo ('place of refuge') in the Klein Olifants River Valley. Besides a residence and church, he built a stone fort for the protection of the mission against marauding tribesmen. The fort has been restored by the Simon van der Stel Foundation and declared a national monument. Botshabelo today also contains a museum, a small game reserve and a *South Ndebele Village*, which gives rich insights into the art forms of the Ndebele women, both in their gaily coloured murals and in their exquisite beadwork. Open daily from 08h00-17h00. Youth hostel accommodation. *Information:* call (01321) 2 3897.

### HIKING TRAILS

Duration of the (A) and (B) sections of the *Klein Aasvogelkrans* hiking trail: four and eight hours respectively. *Information and Reservations:* The Officer, Botshabelo, PO Box 14, Middelburg 1050. Call (01321) 2 3897. Further information see p. 30.

## LOSKOP DAM PUBLIC RESORT

On the R35, 38 km north of Middelburg, Loskop Dam is an impressive expanse of water stretching between the bush covered hills of the *Waterberg Range* in the middleveld. The second largest dam in the Transvaal, it impounds the Olifants River to provide irrigation for more than 26 000 ha of farm lands. Surrounding the dam is a splendid nature reserve maintained by the Transvaal Division of Nature Conservation. Within its 14 800 ha domain a large variety of game animals wander freely, among them white rhino, zebra, waterbuck, sable antelope, nyala, giraffe and buffalo. More than 200 bird species and over 1 000 species of plants have been identified. Bus tours are available. Private vehicles are not allowed entrance into the park.

A comfortable and attractive public holiday resort has been developed on the banks of the dam, where summer days are pleasantly hot and winter brings warm sunny days and cool nights.

### ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES

Besides accommodation in self-contained, air-conditioned log cabins each with lounge, fully-equipped kitchenette, bathroom, stoep and

barbeque, a shady landscaped caravan park is available with ablution block, laundry and wash-up facilities.

Amenities include a restaurant, shop, swimming pool, paddling pool and children's play park. Fuel available.

A spacious day visitor area is provided with barbeque facilities. Conducted bus tours of the nature reserve on weekends and public holidays: launch trips on the dam available on request. *Sports and recreation:* tennis on all weather, floodlit courts, rowing, sailing, motorboating and angling. Fish such as carp, blue kurper and barbel provide opportunities for many fishing competitions. A nature trail leads through the indigenous vegetation behind the resort to a high point from where there are superb views of the dam and its surroundings.

*Information and Reservations:* The General Manager, Overvaal Loskop Dam, Private Bag X1525, Middelburg 1050. Call (012022) ask for Damwal 3075.

Some three kilometres from the entrance to the Loskop Dam Resort, on the Middelburg road is a *cheetah breeding farm* open to visitors. No entrance fee but donations towards upkeep are welcome.

### WITBANK

Essentially a mining and industrial town and the centre of a district which is the largest coal producer on the



▲ EXHILARATING SPEED



continent. In the vicinity of Witbank are dams and nature reserves.

WITBANK DAM

Some 10 km east of town this dam on the Olifants River offers facilities for boating, swimming and fishing and accommodation in the form of cottages, rooms and a caravan park.

CR SWART NATURE RESERVE

Adjacent to the dam and resort. This 197 ha reserve contains a good selection of plant and animal life. Regular educational tours of the reserve are offered. *Information:* call (01351) 7 0147. The reserve is open from sunrise to sunset.

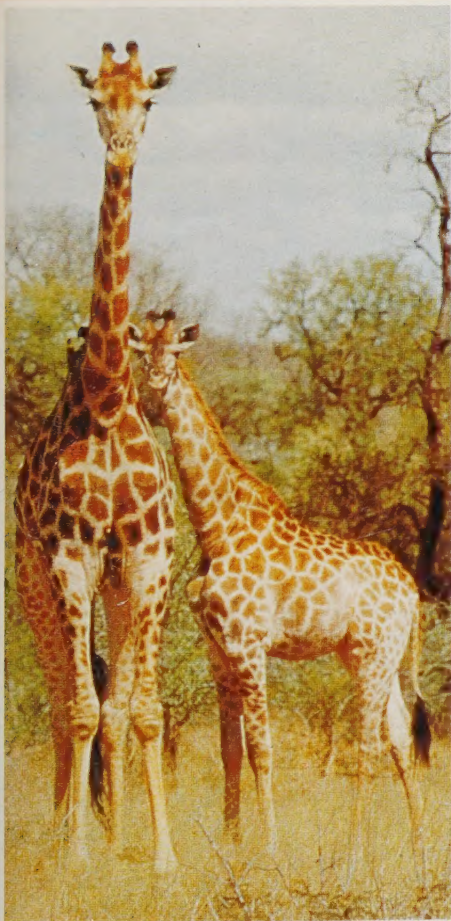
From Witbank the N4 highway leads to both *Pretoria* and the *Witwatersrand* from where a network of highways links all the major centres in South Africa.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Public Relations Officer  
Witbank Municipality  
Box 3  
Witbank  
1035  
Call (01351) 7442



▲ BIRD'S EYE VIEW



▲ HAUGHTY STARE



▲ PAPER MILL AT NIGHT



▲ NDEBELE ART FORMS



# Fishing and Hiking in the Eastern Transvaal

## FISHING LICENCES

Year round trout angling season. Due to a summer rainfall which discolours most of the streams, the preferred angling period is from March to September.

Only artificial, non-spinning (trout) flies may be used, along with a rod and reel. Fixed spool reels are prohibited. A trout licence costs R8,00 per annum, renewable on 1 July. Fresh water fish licences cost R5,00 per annum. Obtainable from Receiver of Revenue offices and major sport shops.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

*The Transvaal Division of Nature Conservation*

Private Bag X209

Pretoria

0001

Call (012) 201 2361

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON HIKING IN THE EASTERN TRANSVAAL

1. Make a reservation well in advance. Eastern Transvaal hiking trails are popular.

2. An accurate map, obtainable from the Hiking Way Board (see below) is essential.
3. Comfortable walking shoes or boots are essential. Woollen socks prevent blisters.
4. Your rucksack should not exceed one third of your body weight.
5. Don't take short cuts. You may lose your way: you may also cause erosion. Stick to the marked route.
6. Wild flowers are protected. They may be neither picked nor uprooted.
7. Check the weather forecast for the area before starting your hike. Invariably a waterproof jacket or raincoat is advisable.
8. Remember the golden rule: do not litter. Take photographs only. Leave nothing but your footprints.

For more details consult the South African Tourism Board's brochure

*Follow the Footprints*, obtainable at the Board's regional offices (see back page).

For detailed maps on specific routes contact:

The South African Hiking Way Board  
Private Bag X447

Pretoria

0001

Call (021) 299 9111

For further information on sport in general consult the South African Tourism Board's fact sheet *Sport in South Africa*. Contact addresses see back page.

## MALARIA PRECAUTIONS

The Kruger National Park and adjacent Lowveld territory are situated in an area where malaria still exists, and although the risk of contracting the disease is minimal it is advisable to take precautionary measures in the form of anti-malaria pills before entering the area. Either a doctor or pharmacist should be consulted about the most suitable prophylactic.





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South Africa  
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